OUTLOOKS

CANADA'S NATIONAL GLBT MAGAZINE
MAY 2009

REFERENCE

306
OUT

ARE WE THERE YET?

your canadian summer
ROADTRIPS

2009 PRIDE
and events preview

vancouver's gay
TOP MODEL
behind the scenes

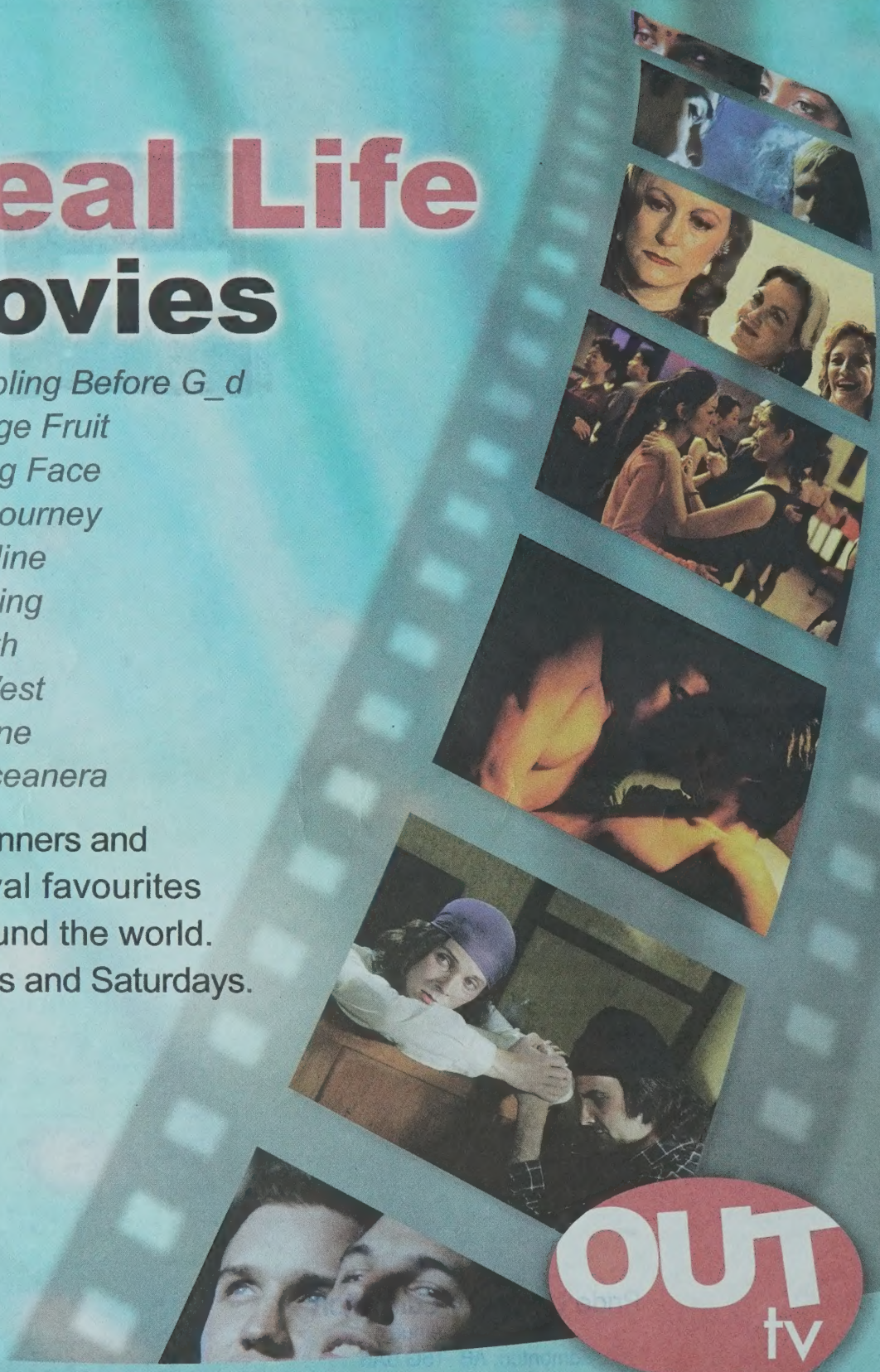
Pride Centre of Edmonton
9540 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0A5

outlooks.ca

Real Life Movies

- *Trembling Before G_d*
- *Strange Fruit*
- *Saving Face*
- *The Journey*
- *Gasoline*
- *Girl King*
- *Stealth*
- *Go West*
- *Daphne*
- *Quinceanera*

Award-winners and
film festival favourites
from around the world.
Thursdays and Saturdays.



OUT tv

Check OUTtv.ca for show times.

OUTLOOKS
CANADA'S NATIONAL GLBT MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE

MAY 2009

Contributing Writers

Diane Walsh
Vancouver, British Columbia

Darrin Hagen
Edmonton, Alberta

Peter Carlyle-Gordge
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dr. Kevin Alderson
Calgary, Alberta

Dale Smith
Ottawa, Ontario

Ralph Higgins
Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

Charlie David
Los Angeles, California

Doug Ross
Toronto, Ontario

Martyn Dunn
Vancouver, British Columbia

Karey T. Mayers
Calgary, Alberta

David King
Montréal, Quebec

On the cover: Calan Breckon
Photography - Nicholas Jang www.double-take2.ca
Clothing from www.globalatomic.com
Necklace from www.beautymark.ca

Dictionary of Homophobia 14

Derek James & Dan Payne Interview 16

2009 Pride & Events Sneak Peek 23

6 Canadian Summer Road Trips

CONTENTS

Queer Festivals: Building Community, Understanding Ourselves 11
Mistress Manners 12
From Peter's Pulpit 12
Thoughts from the Hill 13
Couch Talk 13
Fairytales Film Festival Preview 17
Fasten Your Seatbelts 22
Mister Congeniality - Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model 24
Terminating Employment and Laying Off Employees 25
Don't You Wish 26
Out & About 27
Marketplace 29
Web Directory 29
Horoscopes 30
After Dark 31

Outlooks Mailing Address:
#1B, 1230A 17 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB Canada T2T 0B8

Toll-Free: 1-888-228-1157
Calgary: (403) 228-1157 | Fax: (403) 228-7735
Toronto: (416) 645-0113

Primary E-mail: main@outlooks.ca
Editorial: editor@outlooks.ca
Sales: sales@outlooks.ca
Graphics: graphics@outlooks.ca

outlooks.ca

Outlooks is a proud member of:
IGLTA
International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association

Please Recycle

Publisher ..... Brett Taylor
Copy Editor ..... Michael Wright
National Sales ..... Perry Mah
Graphics & Webmaster ..... TCG Media Inc.
..... Digital Avatar
Proofreading ..... Colleen Hanna
..... Marlene Hall
Research & Development ..... Ted Stokes
Printing ..... Sun Media Ltd.
Distribution: *Hawk Distribution, Gallant Distribution, S*A*R*G*E Distribution*

ISSN 1704-7927
National Library of Canada
Ottawa

Outlooks is published 12 times yearly. Please send submissions or queries to the mailing address listed above. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the staff. *Outlooks* is not responsible for unsolicited work or photographic materials. All material contained herein is the property of *Outlooks* and may not be used without express written consent of the publisher or editor.

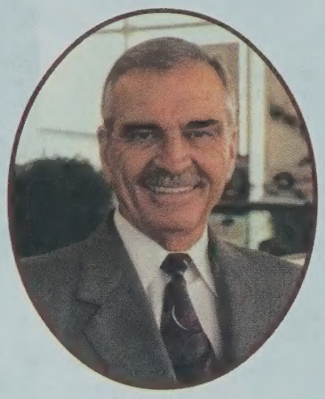
We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.
Canada

GLOBAL NSSW AWARD

CANADA

Brasso Nissan

Mr. Einar Brasso



Good customer satisfaction is like a good golf swing—it must be repeatable.

A customer is satisfied when treated fairly, with respect, in a timely manner by a professional organization in a pleasant environment and feels his business is valued—every time.

Our employees must be nice people with strong values. Talent can be developed in good people, but character cannot be learned.

Employees must be empowered to identify customer's needs. Staff must always remember that the customer in front of them is actually their mother!

Keeping good people on staff is crucial. Customers trust someone who knows them by name. Recognizing and rewarding those employees keeps them motivated and happy within the organization.

A culture of decency, respect and professionalism creates satisfied customers.

To Ensure a Quality Shopping Experience give us a call at (403) 253-5555 or email info@brassonissan.com to book a reservation with one of our sales staff.

Invest in yourself this year!

Heavens
637 11 ave sw
403.263.3113
heavensfitness.com

Revitalize your life

luminous
SKIN & HAIR REJUVENATION

3A Lemarchand Tower
11503 100 Avenue
Edmonton AB
780 454 3721

luminousskinandhair.com

Ask MARNIE

Is It Worth It?

Some renovations can significantly increase the market value of a home. Others can cost more than you'll ever get back. So, when choosing a "fixer- upper", look carefully at the work that needs to be done.

General painting, and kitchen or bathroom renovations typically increase the resale value of a house. "Invisible" repairs such as plumbing, heating or electrical, systems may not.

Before you buy, work with your REALTOR® to develop a market value estimate of the house you are considering as though the renovations you're contemplating are already complete.

If the math works, go for it. Buying a "fixer-upper" can be very rewarding.

Proud sponsor of Fairy Tales & ARGRA

MARNIE CAMPBELL, REALTOR®
OUT THERE WITH YOU

WWW.MARNIECAMPBELL.CA
403.479.8619

MaxWell South Star
#20, 8180 Macleod Tr South
Calgary, AB

MaxWell

Not intended to breach existing brokerage agreements.

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
A.K. ROSS
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Dedicated to providing quality financial leadership, management and business services

For small to medium-sized businesses, including businesses in the health and fitness industry

A.K. Ross, CGA
Box 94090, RPO Elbow River
Calgary, Alberta T2S 0S4
Phone 403-512-9281 • Fax 403-264-4169 • Email ak@akrpc.ca • www.akrpc.ca

OUTLOOKS
Check it OUT!
BLOG BLOG BLOG
outlooksmagazine.blogspot.com

MINI-RODEO-DANCE
SATURDAY MAY 30, 2009
ARGRA.ORG

Compete in Mini-Rodeo Events!

Buy-Your-Rodeo-Packages-at-Early-Bird-Prices-&-Sign-Up-to-Volunteer

Wet your Whistle with great drink prices! Late Night Buffet!

Where: Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta
Doors open at 8PM. Membership available for purchase, Admission Members $6 - Non Members $10.

TITLE SPONSOR: BUD LIGHT
PREMIER SPONSORS: OUTLOOKS
PLATINUM SPONSORS: Carkeline
GOLD SPONSORS

Get Your Yards Ready!

- Aerating / Power Raking
- Driveway Sealing
- Maintenance Packages
- Competitive Rates
- Landscape Construction

East Meets West Contracting Ltd.

Chuck & Kris (403)630-9553

Melrose Cafe & Bar

Whatever your mood, Whatever your taste.

We've got you covered

Celebrating 15years in the Calgary community

melrose CAFE & BAR

Cafe · Bar · Patio

730 - 17TH Ave SW . Phone 228-3566
www.melrosecalgary.com

Summer Holidays – What About a Canadian Roadtrip?

by Diane Walsh

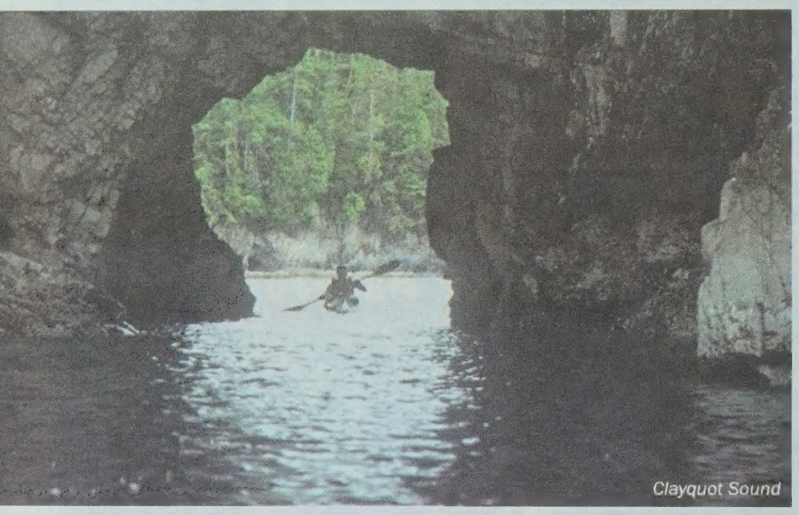
Have you ever thought of your *own* country as a choice vacation destination? Hummm... kinda gets the wheels turning. Why pay astronomical airline fares to go abroad, only to cry at the Euro conversion of your hard-earned Canadian dollar when you *can* do Canada?

Politically, at the moment, supporting the *domestic* economy is all the rhetoric as I'm sure you have heard. Get on the "Go Canada" bandwagon—you might even have money to spare on the actual holiday once you get there! (I mean, here). Canada is where it's at. Umpteen opportunities for scenic bliss, that are as majestic as they are accessible, are available right here. For your next holiday, why not consider the West Coast, the Alberta Badlands, or the Niagara region of Southern Ontario. It's *all* good!

RAINFOREST EPIPHANY – VANCOUVER ISLAND AND REGIONS:

Ok, if you haven't heard that British Columbia has the biggest and most gorgeous old-growth trees, then you've been living under your pillow too long. Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the West Coast Trail (Long Beach, Tofino and Clayoquot Sound)...here you come!

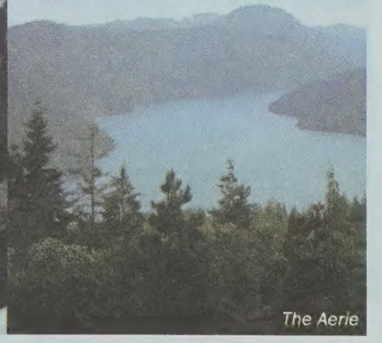
The first decision you'd have to make in coming to the island is where to land—Victoria or Nanaimo. If you choose Victoria, there is an abundance of places to stay in the city (which can easily be found on the web). Here are some ideas for spots off the beaten track. There's a part of the island, which is like an island in and of itself, dubbed the "Gateway to Canada's West Coast." Here, you can trek the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail and discover the hidden secrets past Sooke, once considered the outback but is now a growing eco-tourism community.



Clayquot Sound

One possibility as a place to sleep is Orveas Bay (**www.orveasbay.com**). It's like a retreat option, sporting six acres of private property in a rainforest and ocean setting. Besides their mile long beach, they are within minutes of all the other beautiful ocean beaches, hiking trails and provincial parks in the area. Run by June and Ron Williams, it's lovely and receptive to gay clientele. When asked if this resort would be

Sooke Potholes



The Aerie

Juan de Fuca Marine Trail

a good choice for gay couples visiting the island, June was unequivocal, "We welcome all [gay] couples and Orveas Bay will offer them all the privacy, comforts and luxuries of home. We do not have specials [per se] but do offer low season rates from October 1 to April 30."

Whether you decide to start your trip from Victoria or Nanaimo—both of which are accessible by ferry or plane from the city of Vancouver—take the Malahat Mountain challenge by car. Take the peaceful drive North on Highway 1. If you choose to start from the south island (a.k.a. Greater Victoria), be sure to stop at the viewpoint at its peak. There's a place called Aerie (**www.aerie.ca**), which loosely separates Victoria folk from what they call "more up islanders." It's a breathtakingly, scenic lodge, offering all the amenities of a first-class stay over.

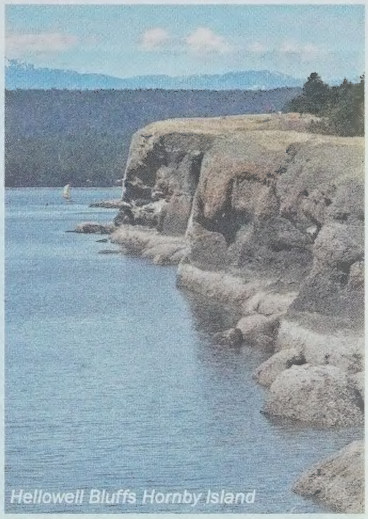
As you drive north, you can't help but notice how pretty the central island is, particularly all through Parksville and Qualicum. Make sure that you take the "old island" highway (through Qualicum Bay, importantly) so that you can see the ocean and all the fishing towns (not the least of which is the sight of the Hornby Island Ferry—more on that later).

Once again, this journey to what's known on the island as "the west coast trek" is best done by car. To Tofino, it's a rocky road in parts, but well worth the adventure. Pacific Sands Resort (**www.pacificsands.com**) is one of the most spectacular resorts; but it costs a pretty penny. There are many places to stay, so just choose what pleases you; but be sure to book far, far in advance because more than 8,000 tourists come piling into the area every year. Clayoquot Sound is a must-see. Take the boat ride over to the springs—no matter the price (last time checked, it was just over $100 a person), but well worth it. Long Beach, which you'll see on your way to Tofino, is the renowned surf spot.

Visiting a Gulf Island is time well spent, so double back from Tofino along that old island highway. Take the ferry to Denman Island and then to Hornby Island. If your time is limited, make a break for Hornby so as not to miss the opportunity to enjoy one of—if not *the* best spots, known as Little Trib among locals. (Yes, another secret!)

The main beach is in Tribune Bay Provincial Park and this is not clothing-optional, but just a quick jaunt around to the southern point of the beach you will find "Little Trib". A cross between prehistoric and outer-space-like "hoodoo" rock formations flowing into white sand beach, Tribune Bay boasts being one of the cool beaches—if not the best beach not only in the Gulf Islands, but in the *country*! Little Trib has been clothing-optional for many years. The sandy beach provides swimming because the water is not at all deep, and with its warm southern exposure...it's almost tropical.

Once you're on Hornby Island, Tribune Bay Provincial Park is easy to find. Park in the campground area, walk down the path to the beach and head to the most southern point. You can't camp right on the beach—albeit people have been known to. Tribune Bay Campground is owned privately. The Co-Op store and other must-see classic island artsy shops are within easy walking distance. You should know that there are no hotels or motels on this island. The favoured campsite is *Brad's Dad's Land.*


Hellowell Bluffs Hornby Island

Hornby Island is unique because weekly house rentals are available, with lots of variety and prices. All are equipped for short-term stays. Access information in the web: **www.hornbyisland.net** or **www.hornby-island.travel.bc.ca/accommodations**. Pick the price that suits—they're all very special.

If planning this get-a-way, invest in good shoes, pack sporty and you'll have a ball, and what the heck, go ahead and hug a tree in the process.

WET IN NIAGARA, BUT IN A GOOD WAY

Enjoying an area known as the Niagara Peninsula is becoming evermore popular among gays. Picturesque for sure, it stretches between the southern end of **Lake Ontario** and the north end of **Lake Erie**.

While extending from the **Niagara River** in the east, to good 'ol **Hamilton Ontario** in the west, it features the famous wonder, Niagara Falls, representing one of the top must-see spectacular sites Canada has to offer. The falls emerge 27 km NNE of **Buffalo, New York** and 120 km SSE between the sister city of **Niagara Falls, New York**. Situated on **Niagara River**, they are an impenetrable international border between the province of Ontario and the state of **New York**.

No 'Canuck' travel ad fails to say that the most complete views of Niagara Falls are from the Canadian side of the river, with the falls facing directly toward the Canadian shore. The American shore views are from behind the falls.

The geologic explanation for the formation of Niagara Falls is an interesting as how this area has become a gay favorite vacation destination. Since March 2008, the Bishop of Niagara, Michael Birdon, is said to be implementing a November 2007 decision, with Anglicans in Niagara voting overwhelmingly to adopt the "local option" to allow clergy "whose conscience permits" to bless the marriages of gays and lesbians.

Niagara Falls

The Niagara Diocese website, however, says individual priests can opt out of same sex blessings. The phraseology all around is felt to be a bit annoying. Rather nigglely in fact. But nevertheless, we, queers, can get married there! Niagara is a pro-gay area, culturally-speaking, which explains why it's become so very popular not only as a wedding destination but also a place to settle down. And that's good for Canada's tourist image!

Now, with that tangent said, let's now look at not only the area's cultural backdrop but also its geologic history, which is equally fascinating. Iroquoian legend says that the name, Niagara, is derived from the "Niagagarega" people, identified on some archived 17th century French maps, later discovered, as the name given to a clan or tribe of locally-dwelling First Nations people who, at the time, were referred to as a native Neutral Confederacy.

The geologic features that have become what we now know today to be the falls, were created by massive ice movement (or glaciations), roughly 10,000 years ago. The Great Lakes and the Niagara River were also created in this way, i.e. carved out by an ice sheet that drove through, grinding deep river channels that made lakes while damming the other parts with its crushed debris.

Efforts to harness the energy of the falls for hydro-electric power and control of development on both sides of the Canadian/US border have been a major economic driver in history unfortunately complicated now by the threat to the area's natural beauty.

For travelers interested in more eco-tourism, there are many aspects of this history which can be discovered, along with ways to raise awareness. Water diversion is controlled by the 1950 Niagara Treaty and with the administration by an international board. Water-access control is proving to be a contentious heavy-weight issue in 21st century government and industry politics.

Niagara Escarpment

What to do and where to stay if Niagara is where you dream to be:

These are the respected websites for everything gay in Niagara: **www.niagarafallsgay.com**, **www.isout.com**. Of course, the Maid of the Mist (**www.maidofthemist.com/en**) is the famous boat tour of Niagara Falls. Starting at the calm part of the Niagara River, near the Rainbow Bridge, and are taken past the American and Bridal Veil Falls, and then into the spray inside the curve of the Horseshoe Falls. If you want to do jet boating, try **www.whirlpooljet.com**.

Once you've dried off, you could try Thirty Bench Winery, a winery with its own small vineyard, located in Beamsville. The Niagara region tends to specialize in ice wines, Rieslings, Merlots, Cabernets and Gewürztraminers. Jackson-Triggs winery, well-known across Canada, is another favorite stop-off.

A clothing optional stay-over possibility is: **www.oasisniagara.com**.

A solid B&B option is **www.mergetel.com/~fbhouse/nfbnbassoc**; as is, **www.gretnagreenniagara.com/gretnagreen_welcome.html**. If you're looking for some sexy action, like to dress in leather, or just prefer tea dances, The Breeze Martini Bar & Guest House is getting a lot of hits. The New Vouz (Club Rendezvouz Bar & Restaurant) is getting a lot of buzz, touted as, Niagara's longest gay-operated biz. It features buffets, films, pool nights, and karaoke. Cabaret nights are hugely popular (think Joel Gray and you'll be right at home). A handy travel blog is: **www.cliftonhill.com/falls_blog/category/gay-tourism-niagara-falls**.

As always, follow your nose—you'll find the right scent!

(continued on page 8) >>>

HOMESTEADS, BONEBEDS & COALBEDS – A SCENIC DRIVING TOUR THROUGH THE CANADIAN BADLANDS

This exploration of the Canadian Badlands is a tour through time—in a region of Alberta that is like no other place on earth. Whether a long weekend visit or an extended stay, enjoy your visit to the Badlands, a land with a natural heritage over seventy-five million years old.

Calgary to Drumheller

Head east from Calgary on **Country Hills Boulevard (Highway 564)** to begin your journey in the Canadian Badlands.

As your route turns north on **Highway 840**, watch for Alberta's official flower, the wild rose. The abundance of this pink flower led the local Blackfoot to name the river Akokiniskway, the river of many rosebuds. The hamlet of Rosebud is home to Alberta's largest professional rural theatre where you can take in a performance and, if time allows, visit its shops and galleries or stay in one of the local inns or B&Bs.

Rosebud Theatre

North from Rosebud, **Highway 840** ends at **Highway 9.** A right turn, and within minutes you reach Horseshoe Canyon Lookout and the first view of the colourful and rugged Red Deer River Valley. It's worth taking a few minutes to walk to the edge—the scenery will take your breath away! Those looking for an extended visit can hike the footpaths on the west side of the Canyon.

From Horseshoe Canyon, continue on **Highway 9** for 17 km to Drumheller. Climb to the top of the World's Largest Dinosaur for a *Tyrannosaurus*-eye view of the badlands. Then join Alberta's dinosaur hunters at the famous Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. The museum is located in Midland Provincial Park, 6 km northwest of Drumheller on **Highway 838**. The Tyrrell Museum promises an educational visit of two to three hours.

Drumheller to Brooks

To journey through Drumheller's coal mining past, head east on the scenic **Hoodoo Trail (Highway 10)**.

Rosedale is the first historic mining town east of Drumheller. Follow the signs to the Suspension Bridge, a swaying cable bridge hanging over the Red Deer River. If you have time, visit the famed Last Chance Saloon in Wayne.

From Rosedale, continue 13 km east on **Highway 10**, passing various historic mining towns to reach East Coulee. Ready to try out the mining life? From East Coulee, continue east on **Highway 10** (later **Highway 570**) for 1.5 km, and follow signs to the Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site, Alberta's most extensive coal mining museum.

Atlas Coal Mine

Heading onward to Brooks, watch for deer, coyote and pronghorn as you travel the next 100 km through ranching country via **Highways 570, 36, 550** and **873**. For a unique dinner experience, stop at the Patricia Hotel for a barbecue-your-own steak or bison burger and all the fixings, in a real western bar.

Brooks to Dinosaur Provincial Park, Dinosaur Provincial Park to Calgary

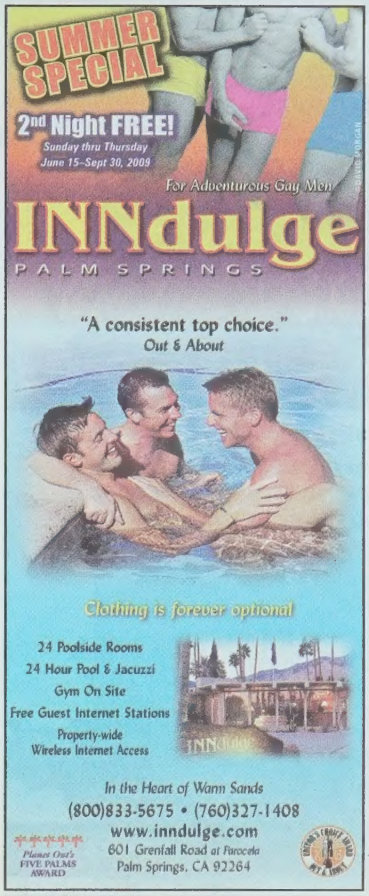
Dinosaur Provincial Park is 48 km northeast of Brooks accessed from **Highways 873** and **544**. As you approach the park, the prairie comes to an abrupt end. Before descending into this impressive valley, take time to stop at the lookout where a world truly like no other stretches before you.

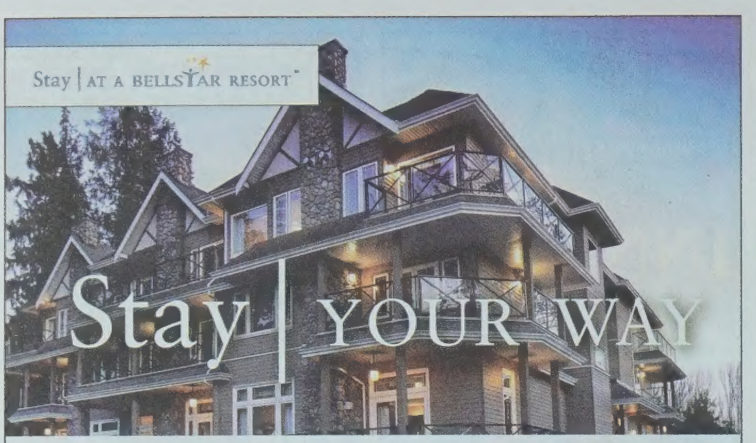
A United Nations World Heritage Site, the Park is a giant laboratory of past life, grudgingly giving up clues to the researchers who come here from around the world. At least thirty-five species of dinosaurs have been found here, including more than 500 complete skeletons. Enjoy the Park on a guided hike or bus tour before heading back to Calgary via a number of quieter secondary routes or the TransCanada Highway.

T Rex - courtesy of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

From settlements, to dinosaur bones and hoodoos, to coal mines, this touring route has given you a taste of the Canadian Badlands. More discoveries await. In the Canadian Badlands, you can canoe the Milk River, trail ride in Dry Island Buffalo Jump, tour ancient petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, and take in local rodeos and festivals in communities across the region. To plan your next Canadian Badlands experience, go to **CanadianBadlands.com** or contact Travel Alberta at 1-800-ALBERTA. ■

Travel and Accommodation





Discover Sidney's secret vacation residence by the sea

Miraloma on the Cove is a luxury waterfront rental vacation residence, nestled on a beautiful heritage property with 1.5 acres of private gardens, located in Sidney B.C. on Vancouver Island. 20 minutes from Victoria.

Nightly Rates from $149*

Studio, 1 & 2 Bedroom Suites
Contintental Breakfast included

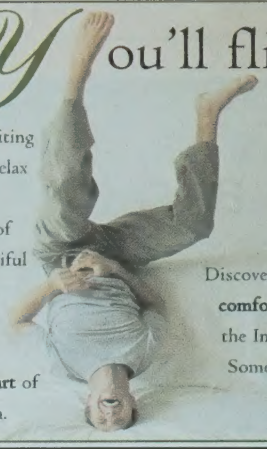
Join Bellstar's E-Club online to receive exclusive offers in your inbox.

* Valid for 2009 stays, subject to availability

MIRALOMA
on the cove
SIDNEY, BC

Book online at www.miraloma.ca or call 1.877.956.6622

You'll flip for us



When visiting Ottawa, relax in the **elegance** of our beautiful Victorian bed & breakfast in the **heart** of the action.

Discover the **comfort** of the Inn on Somerset.

Inn on Somerset

282 Somerset St. W., Ottawa
(800) 658-3564
www.innonsomerset.com
email: info@innonsomerset.com

OUTADVENTURES

THE BEST ITINERARIES AT THE BEST PRICES PRICE PROMISE

Small Groups. Seven Continents. Gay Adventures.

ACTIVE $$		COMFORT $$$	
Nepal Adventure 15 days + local payment	**$955** *NDA	**Turkey** 15 days + local payment	**$1655** *RDP
Inca Trail 8 days + local payment	**$1095** *GDA	**Captivating Cuba** 8 days + local payment	**$1395** *QDA
		Thailand 10 days + local payment	**$1015** *TDK

enter 3 letter trip code into trip finder at out-adventures.com for more information.

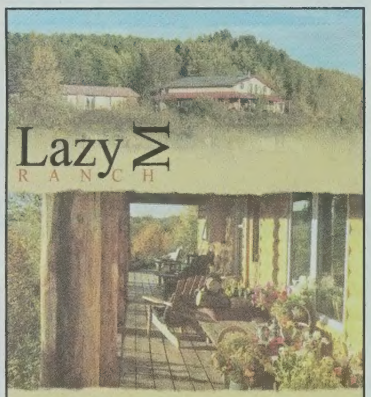
Call 1 866 360 1152 or contact your travel agent

Prices are correct at time of press, terms and conditions apply. Prices are based on 2 sharing. Single travellers will be partnered together at no cost. Subject to limited availability, incl all taxes. Flights to and from starting/finishing point not incl. TICO protected 50017040

IGLTA tico.ca

La Loggia
art B&B
1637 Amherst St
Montréal, Qc
514.524.2493
866.520.2493
www.LaLoggia.ca
info@laloggia.ca

Your most creative retreat in Montréal



Private River Retreat in west central Alberta

36 Acres - 7 Bedroom Lodge, 4 Bedroom House, 1 Bedroom Suite
$1.05 Million
propertyguys.com
#46781

http://www.lazymcanada.com
1-866-382-LAZY

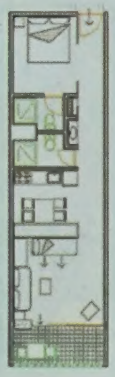
OUTLOOKS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS THEY MAKE OUTLOOKS POSSIBLE!

BOANA

Puerto Vallarta
MEXICO

Each unit has:
* 1 bedroom
* 2 bathrooms
* kitchenette
* living room
* balcony
* air-conditioning
* maid service

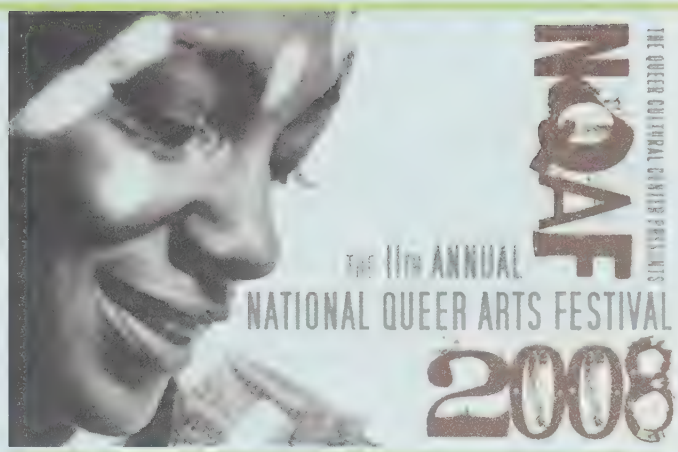


Boana Torre Malibu-Condo Hotel, One block from GAY beach
Amapas 325, Zona Romantica, Puerto Vallarta Tel/fax 011-52 (322) 222-6695 / 222-0999
www.boana.net boana@pvnet.com.mx

Queer Festivals:

Building Community, Understanding Ourselves

by Darrin Hagen



Case in point: in San Francisco's National Queer Arts Festival is now in its twelfth year of giving voice to the diverse population it serves and represents.

One might put forward that this is a community that has a strong presence without a festival, but what National Queer Arts Festival has done is expand the boundaries of inclusion, giving voice to elements and citizens that were traditionally passed over by the standard vision of how the Queer community has been portrayed.

The buzzwords are "innovative" and "inclusive". In 1993, the Queer Cultural Center was founded to foster the artistic, economic and cultural development in San Francisco's community. The Qcc created programs that commission and present Queer artists, with an eye to the development of culturally diverse organizations, and documenting the major arts events happening in San Francisco. Qcc employs the arts to build a united community that values diversity, inclusiveness and equality and to challenge and reduce the community's internal racial, gender, economic, age and sexual identity divisions.

Not only is a community being built through the work of the artists, but also the creation of the audience for the events is part of the success. Last year, over 75,000 people attended the various events on the roster, making the festival a force to be reckoned with on the cultural landscape.

The month-long National Queer Arts Festival conducts "Creating Queer Community", a program that has commissioned more than sixty San Francisco-based artists to create new work.

This year, the seventy-five-plus events and happenings defy categorization, and represent the full range of the Queer experience.

Events include **Nature is So Gay**, created by homo writers/artists Ali Liebegott and Nicole Georges, which

explores the queerness of the animal kingdom, and re-imagines queer heroes as their animal counterparts.

The NQAF's annual exhibition (opening on June 7) utilizes the theme **Threads** – and poses the question, "What weaves a queer community together?" The exhibition is followed by **SF is Burning**!, featuring innovative fashion and performance by SF's best queer 'houses' and judged by Project Runway's Andrae Gonzalo.

Free events include heading to the SF Public Library, where you can meet four queer writers presenting their work - including club-kid-turned-literary-sensation James St. James, whose gory tell-all *Party Monster* hit the silver screen in a notorious and spectacular fashion.

Indie musician **Dirt Star** casts a queer lens on environmental justice and demonstrates possibilities for queers to live on the planet, displaying perfectly the Festival's commitment to exploring the bigger picture.

borderOUT uses many different performance styles and elements to explore queer human migration. From stilt walkers tracing humanity's evolution from stardust, to border-crossing *rancheras*, queer immigrant artists tell their stories through spoken word, music, dance and theater.

Past festivals have hosted over 400 events featuring the work of over 1000 Queer artists of every stripe and discipline, not to mention every variable in the LGBTQQ alphabet. The NQAF has, in fact, contributed to the multicultural perspective of the Queer community.

What began as a grass-roots political leverage body has become a force that has elevated the discourse of the place for art in society. The Qcc built relationships with the artists themselves, meaning that regardless of the political climate of the moment, the work and the message was being developed. By focusing on long-range planning that was unaffected by the whims of political change, the Queer Cultural Centre has galvanized an entire community of Queer artists, giving them not only the means to create an artistic product, but the venue and stage for the presentation of their work. ■

Mistress Manners

Dear Mistress Manners:

Our youth-oriented community is being faced with a growing group of us over the "magical" age of 32, less muscular than we wish, and accompanied by receding hair lines.

Where will stable role models come from? Where can we mix and just enjoy being with each other? How do we stop retreating into our homes and break the generation lines?

~ Grey and Gay

Please contact Mistress Manners with your questions at: **mistressmanners@gmail.com**

Dear Grey and Gay,

Supposedly, we become wiser with age and yet we can't seem to figure out how to get what we want. So many of the queers I know deny themselves the pleasure of spending time with other people at least in part because of "the scene". We blame our emotional baggage. We blame the twinks and the cute young hip-hop dykes with the hot pink hair. That's silly; the crowds wouldn't be so intimidating if there were a few more bald spots and saggy boobs on the dance floor.

The lesson here is that we need to be our own role models. Hotness and maturity go hand in hand, at least in my world. Visibility is key to creating true diversity and we're not doing ourselves any favours by staying home.

Many of us have more profound relationships with our hand-held devices and our online networking sites than we do with each other. Mistress Manners knows more than a handful of pumpkins who can't leave their blackberries alone long enough to finish a martini. This is crazy. Part of the issue is that cruising has taken a massive shift over the past decade. Instead of creating queer spaces and forcing ourselves out into community activities, we're meeting people online. After a quick chat on Manhunt or Superdyke, we're comfortable giving out our addresses and letting "the goods" come to us. It's hard to argue with the kind of convenience that this kind of social networking provides but, like you, Mistress Manners wonders if it isn't a little too shallow.

I think we can do better. I think we will do better. Gay bars are closing at an alarming rate and the ones that are around tend to attract plenty of attention from straight clientele. So you and me and the rest of the queers need to enjoy the spaces we have (and shake our bon bons, even when we think the world doesn't need to seem 'em). The other issue you're touching on is crucial too, G&G. Queer communities are divided by all kinds of barriers, generational and beyond. If we only value queer spaces as a place to hook up with new lovers, then what will happen to our sense of connection to each other? We also need to create new spaces, even if those spaces are private. Yes, I'm talking about entertaining. There has been a huge surge in this valuable art ever since the economy turned sour. People are getting together at each other's houses for tea or treats.

Some people host evenings (or are lucky enough to get invitations) where there's a theme like Poly Leather Women's Potluck or a gay men's dog walk. Just yesterday, Mistress Manners saw a table of four bears knitting scarves, sweaters and toques at her local coffee shop. Now that's what I call community. ■

From Peter's Pulpit

by Peter Carlyle-Gordge

Trying to Change the Unchangeable and Defy Nature

Leopards are born with spots and cannot, by an act of will, change themselves.

Now, what has all this to do with being gay, lesbian or bisexual?

Well, plenty. The arguments of so-called religious right people show a profound ignorance in believing that active homosexuals are, by nature, sinful and can change sexual orientation through an act of will.

The Pope believes homosexuality to be intrinsically designed to lead to "moral evils" if the instinct is acted upon. He insists that same-sex attraction is a disordered state, even though any serious psychiatrist or psychologist abandoned that position long ago.

Having a same-sex attraction is no more immoral or disordered than being born with blue eyes or blonde hair. To insist—as bigots do—that it is a choice, is patently absurd.

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed "homosexuality" from its list of illnesses—the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Since that time, gay and lesbian sexual orientation has been understood by psychiatry and psychology not as an illness, but rather as a lifelong orientation.

The biological, behavioural and social sciences agree there is, now, good evidence for a biological or genetic basis for same-sex attraction. Experts also acknowledge early childhood experience as highly influential. It is now universally accepted by rational scientists that sexual orientation is shaped through extremely complex interactions between genetic and social factors.

Orientation is relatively stable over an individual's lifetime and cannot voluntarily be changed. Equally, you cannot be born with blue eyes and blonde hair and, by an act of will, change those. Cosmetic change is possible, but your blonde roots will grow out!

During the 1950s and 1960s, belief in psychological behaviourism reigned, and aversion therapy was used to "cure" homosexuals. Male patients were given a slide show which included pictures of sexually attractive men and women. They had a lever allowing them to change the slides. If they lingered over the male pictures, they received an electric shock. A variation of this treatment involved a vomit-inducing drug.

I actually took this electric shock treatment in Manchester at age nineteen and soon afterwards had a complete nervous breakdown. Therefore, it can be dangerous, though the doctors meant well.

What got me thinking of all this is a recent British report that a study of more than 1,400 psychiatrists and therapists in *BMC Psychiatry* discovered that 17 percent admitted they had treated at least one client to alter his/her homosexual feelings. The researchers expected the cases to be concentrated in the past; but many were current. One in six admitted they had tried to turn gays straight, or reduce their gay or lesbian feelings, even though mainstream science says this is impossible.

Psychosexual expert Professor Michael King of University College Hospital says pressure from clients demanding help because of bullying, discrimination or family pressure may have pushed the therapists into delivering "help."

King says young people go on the Internet: "They see this stuff and they pop off to see a psychotherapist. If the therapist is not wise enough to say that this is a part of them and there is nothing pathological about it, they may get seduced into trying to change them. Instead, the therapist should be saying that it is very unfortunate they are being bullied and that they can try to help them come to terms with their situation and learn to cope with it."

Derek Munn of the gay rights organization, Stonewall, says so-called gay cure therapies have been wholly discredited; so the conclusions of this research are worrisome. Having suffered myself at the hands of well-meaning but misguided doctors, I can only say, "Amen!" to King and Munn.

Beware of quacks and bigots. ■

Thoughts from the Hill

by Dale Smith

In March, the Minister of Immigration wrote to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of gay and lesbian Iranian refugees awaiting determination in Turkey; but, signalled that this was not a change in our policy toward all gay and lesbian refugees. Many claimants in this country are still being deported to countries where they face persecution for their sexuality.

This month's question:

How do you feel that our current system is handling these refugee claimants, and is there room for improvement?

Liberal MP Hon. Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, Nova Scotia): The same Minister of Immigration is still defending his recent appointment of Doug Cryer to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Mr. Cryer, a former Director of Public Policy for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, is on the record saying that homosexual behaviour is sinful and that same-sex marriage would have a negative impact on children. Doug Cryer has spoken out again gays and lesbians. As a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board, Mr. Cryer will be in a position to pass judgment and make decisions on whether or not to deport them. The Liberals brought this issue up in the Senate. The Conservatives said it was a matter of faith, and dismissed our concerns. It's clear that the Conservatives still don't recognize this as an issue of human rights. Frankly, the Conservatives' contempt for human rights for the GLBT community in Canada undermines its credibility to defend GLBT rights internationally. So, yes, clearly, there is room for improvement in the current system.

Conservative Senator Nancy Ruth (Ontario – Cluny): Every institution is capable of improvement. The IRB is challenged and has been challenged over the years on many issues relating to human rights. Improvements have been made. I think Minister Kenney's reaching out to help Iranian queers in Turkey is another of these steps in improving the possibility of LGBT people's coming to Canada as refugees. I look forward to more steps being taken. Human Rights are never "given," they are always "taken," so I hope your readers keep this issue alive and vibrant.

NDP MP Bill Siksay (Burnaby-Douglas, BC): The situation right now is really mixed. I think if you're a gay or lesbian refugee making a claim in Canada, it could go really well if you have a person hearing your claim who is up on the issues relating to sexual orientation and discrimination of gay and lesbian people around the world. If you get one of the people who are not up to date on it, then you've got real problems. I think, overall, there is lots of room for improvement and consistency. Canada has a particular record on human rights for GLBTT people, and we need to make sure that the full implications of what we've done domestically works its way through our policies as they affect people around the world. And, if that means advocating more strongly in international human rights forums to make sure that other countries improve their records and their policies, then we should be doing that, because we're inconsistent on that too. That means that, until other countries improve their records and make sure that their countries are safer for their gay and lesbian citizens, we should be welcoming those people with open arms and making sure that there is a safe haven for them in Canada. ■

Couch Talk – The Musings of a Psychologist

by Kevin Alderson, Ph.D., R. Psych.

Theories That Hurt

Why do people become the way they are? Why do they do what they do? I suspect most of us develop our own personal theories to explain why we are who we are, and why we do what we do. But I suspect we especially do this when we are trying to understand others.

For example, if you watched many people jaywalk in Montreal, you may wonder why they do this (I have witnessed this in the gay village). What are some possibilities? Perhaps people jaywalk in the village because (a) many are gay and they like to be independent, (b) they are rebellious and buck authority whenever they can, (c) it is socially acceptable to do that everywhere in Montreal, (d) people jaywalk everywhere in Canada if the streets are narrow, and (e) so forth and so forth. Chances are, if you wanted to investigate your own theory (choosing one), you would find some evidence supporting it and some negating it. In other words, there is often some truth in every theory. The theories that persist are those that explain the most or are the most difficult to disprove. The problem, however, is that some theories add further hurt to minority groups that have already been hurt enough by others who don't understand them. Using the above example, what if you believed that those who jaywalk are gay men who are *naturally* rebellious and buck authority? Would that theory, even if you found some evidence for it, be helpful to a group that has already been subjugated by the majority culture?

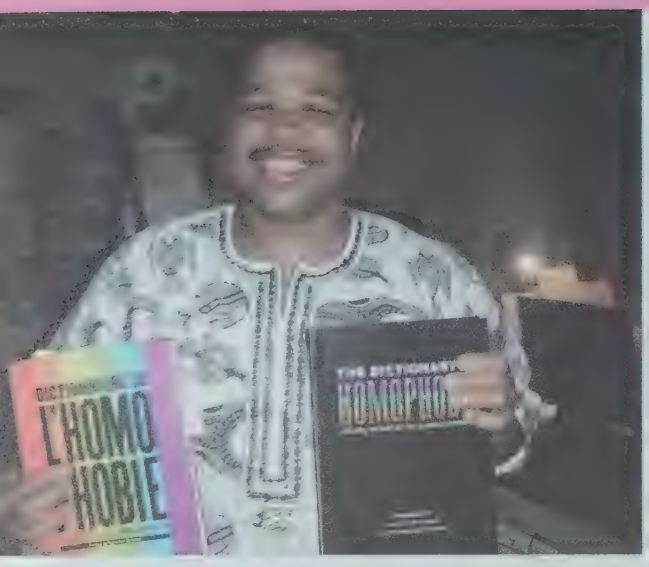
Take Sigmund Freud. As most of you know, he is known as the father of psychology. He theorized that our behaviour is mostly determined by unconscious forces working within us, and that what we do is largely contingent upon unresolved conflicts. He also had the audacity to believe that how we navigated our sexual and aggressive impulses had a lot to say about how well we functioned. Unfortunately, gay males apparently didn't navigate this well at all. Although Freud did not believe we were totally fucked because of our propensity to fall in love with guys, he did believe we were delayed in our psychosexual development (i.e., we were slow in our development compared to breeders, but we would likely never catch up either!). Unfortunately, Freud's theory stuck in the heads of most therapists for a long time, particularly those who already viewed us as inferior and lacking. Some American therapists still believe this shit and will offer us reparative therapy to try to cure us.

Fortunately, the work of people like renowned researcher Evelyn Hooker found no difference in mental health between gay and heterosexual men back in the 1950s, and, combined with plenty of other affirming research and advocacy, homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder in 1973. Nonetheless, research conducted in the 1990s has shown that gay men and lesbian women are more prone to depression and certain anxiety disorders compared to heterosexuals; but, that this is mostly related to the discrimination and prejudice they experience.

Regardless of the truth value of a theory, there is often a politically sensitive time to launch it, and a time when it will simply cause more hurt than it is worth. From another perspective, one should ask if a theory is ethical. Will its consequence mean further disenfranchising an already disadvantaged group?

For example, before homosexuality was declassified, Freud's theory, regardless of its debatable value, was hurtful to gay men as it perpetrated the myth that we are inferior compared to heterosexuals. If Freud had been a gay man himself or a woman (his theory was very negative toward women as well), at least he would have had some authority to launch his hurtful theory against gay men and women. Instead, he was part of the majority culture writing to his own group about why we were less than.

(continued on page 26)



Louis-Georges Tin

Book Review: The Dictionary of Homophobia

by Ralph Higgins

Images provided by Arsenal Pulp Press

The time for queer activism is far from over according to Louis-Georges Tin. The founder of the International Day Against Homophobia and the editor of *The Dictionary of Homophobia* warns that while great strides for GLBT rights have been made in places like Canada and Europe, it is important to be vigilant to ensure that these rights remain protected. Even more pressing, is the need to extend these basic human rights to our queer family internationally.

This commitment to queer rights began early for Tin. Born on Martinique in 1974, he was aware of his attraction to other boys early on but knew that there was no safe place for him to express or share those feelings on the small island. He came out to family and friends at nineteen when he went to Paris to continue his studies. He formed a GLBT student group at École Normale Supérieure but ran into great opposition from the administration when he organized conferences on queer topics. This resistance to his queer activism continued through his doctoral studies and the beginning of his teaching career. After the publication of *The Dictionary of Homophobia* in 2003, suddenly there were no academic positions available to him even though the book received rave reviews and was featured on the front page of the book supplement of the prestigious *Le Monde*. He was obliged to leave France to find university jobs in the UK and US before finally returning to his adopted country for his current position at the Université d'Orléans.

In 2005, Tin established the International Day Against Homophobia. He chose May 17 because this was the date in 1990 that the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of diseases. The IDAH, now recognized in more than sixty countries worldwide, has led queer men and women in countries such as Bulgaria, Ivory Coast and China to find the courage to have public demonstrations. This year, Tin joined queer rights activists in Russia and Belarus. This international solidarity is essential, Tin believes, in order to let activists know that they are not alone and to give notice to governments with repressive laws against homosexuality that there is a worldwide community watching.

In 2005, Tin established the International Day Against Homophobia. He chose May 17 because this was the date in 1990 that the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of diseases.

On December 18, 2008 Louis-Georges Tin led a group from France which presented a declaration to the United Nations urging the decriminalization of homosexuality all over the world. Based entirely on the existing United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this historic declaration already had the support of all members of the European Parliament and has since been signed by over one third of the member states of the United Nations General Assembly. When the number of signing countries reaches ninety-five, the way will be cleared for the declaration to become a United Nations resolution, which will have a great impact on the many member countries in which homosexuality is still illegal. It is interesting to note that one of the few western nations to refuse to sign was the United States under the Bush administration. Now that Obama was taken office, the US is now an official signatory as well, although with the caveat that this would not affect any American state or national laws already in effect.

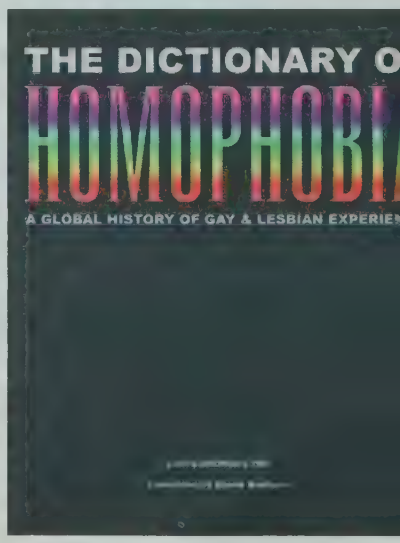
The declaration has been condemned by the Vatican and the Organization of Islamic States but has gained great support from many other countries such as South Africa, which has the principle of non-discrimination against GLBT citizens enshrined in its constitution. The presentation of the declaration only happened after years of lobbying by Tin. To underscore this struggle and as an acknowledgement of the men and women who are still arrested and/or killed every day, Tin concluded the presentation by singing *We Shall Overcome*.

One of the ways to overcome is through knowledge and Tin's *The Dictionary of Homophobia: A Global History of Gay & Lesbian Experience* is now available in English and published by Canada's own Arsenal Pulp Press. The collection, which consists of over 160 essays by seventy-six researchers from fifteen countries, is a treasure of information on the history of gay rights and homophobia worldwide. *The Dictionary of Homosexuality* traces our social, political, medical, legal and criminal treatment in every corner of the globe and is the first truly international look at the people and events that shaped us as queer men and women.

It is a comprehensive guide on far ranging subjects; the sort of book that one can dip into at any point and enjoy getting lost in. While well-researched, the essays are devoid of the kind of scholarly language that often renders learned writings incomprehensible to the majority of us. Clearly, this was intended for the average reader rather than academic conferences. Personalities such as Oscar Wilde, Henri III of France, Sappho, J. Edgar Hoover, Renaldo Arenas and Anita Bryant figure in the dictionary as do essays on religious topics like the Bible, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Music, literature, coming out, adoption, ex-gays, AIDS, Stonewall, Africa and transphobia are some of the many other topics to be found in these 500 pages.

Louis-Georges Tin has said that he regards *The Dictionary of Homophobia* as the theory and the International Day Against Homophobia as that theory put into practice. For those of us living in Canada and benefitting from the many advantages gained by and for the queer community, it is now incumbent upon us to think globally and to extend a hand to our queer brothers and sisters who are struggling and fighting for rights and freedoms we might take for granted.

Knowledge truly is power, and *The Dictionary of Homophobia* is an important resource in gaining that power. It is also a well-documented look into our often-neglected history and an essential reference book for anyone with an interest in human rights, both past and present. ■



Exercise Bikes
starting from
$188.00

Ellipticals
starting from
$398.00

Treadmills
starting from
$988.00

Find your
FIT.

Home Gyms
starting from
$1048.00

[illegible] want, where you want. . . right at home. Fitness Depot has everything you'll need [illegible] exercise machines, home gyms and accessories, all of them at low, low prices. [illegible] the best equipment at the best prices, it's guaranteed.

NORTH AMERICA'S LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

fitnessdepot.ca

fitness DEPOT
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT SUPERSTORES

Have the Relationship You've Always Wanted

Entre-Nous welcomes you into a network where professional men and women can find a long-term same-sex relationship

ENTRE-NOUS NETWORK

Meet your partner today

1-866-467-5252

EntreNousNetwork.com

The Green Room with Charlie David

Director - Chip Hale and Charlie David

Mulligans is a film about an unexpected affair that blossoms between a father and his son's best friend. Two of the film's stars, **Dan Payne** and **Derek James**, were recently nominated for LEO awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in a feature film. Here's hoping they take the trophies but before they stop taking my calls I thought I'd catch up with them for a little chat about summer getaways, favorite Canadian golf courses and which one has kissed a guy before... you may have to watch the movie to find

Cassie Vujovic and Thea Gill

OUTLOOKS: What's your favorite weekend getaway?

D.P. My favorite weekend getaway is a trip with family to the cabin by the lake to do some water skiing, eat great food, soak up some sun....and make fun of each other as only families can!

D.J. I don't get away for weekends much. If I did get away for weekends though, my favorite weekend getaway would be somewhere like Santa Barbara. No, I bet everyone says that one. I change mine to Sacramento. Let's give the city of Sacramento more of a destination feel.

OUTLOOKS: Last year Mulligans played at over sixty international film festivals. From all the destinations which was your favorite and why?

D.P. This may sound very diplomatic, but I couldn't pick a favorite because every festival/destination I was invited to attend was uniquely great. It was an honor to be invited and be able to travel to some destinations I had never been to before.

D.J. Duluth, Iowa's LGBTA film festival. By far! Not sure what the A stands for but great festival. I only went to one festival and that was Provincetown, MA. Great historical town—you can take a bike around everywhere and wonderful audiences.

OUTLOOKS: *Note to reader – Mulligans never played in Duluth... but Derek has been known to cruise in some crazy territory.* When you travel are you an eager guided tour type or a lay on the beach kind of guy?

D.P. There is definitely a strong beach element to my travel but I can't sit still for long. I need to 'do': play in the waves, play volleyball, rummage for food! The best part of travel for me is renting a vehicle and doing a self guided tour of the country I'm visiting and getting past the commercial front to the heart of where ever I am!

D.J. I'm more of a 'try and settle in as a local as soon as possible' type. I don't like to do too much. I just like to coast and take it all in. I feel like the sights are the things right in front of you, so I never have anxiety about missing anything or not doing something because I'm usually pretty happy with whatever is right in front of me. Might as well be right? Some how I got myself there... Too existential?

OUTLOOKS: What's one thing you won't leave home without?

D.P. My wife and son! As far as inanimate objects go, I would have to say, my board shorts! It means I am headed somewhere warm with water!

D.J. Passport...

OUTLOOKS: Being that Mulligans is a golf movie—what's your favorite Canadian course?

D.P. Furry Creek in British Columbia is amazing—although, the way I see it, they owe me just under 1000 golf balls!

D.J. I gotta be honest with you. I've only played a few courses in Canada. I'm not much of a golfer. The movie was edited with some nice quick cuts that made me look good. I'm pretty light of my feet and fancy myself a dancer, so I do a great job a mimicking good golf posture and technique. I actually have literally no ability. It's all smoke and mirrors.

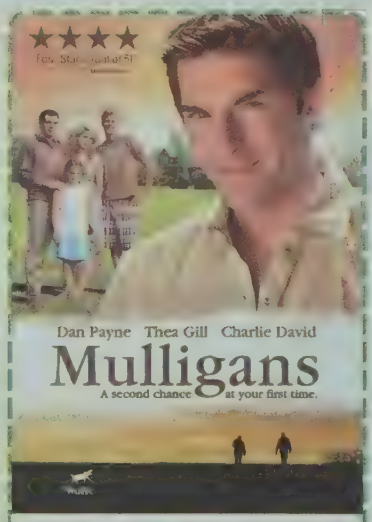
OUTLOOKS: Dan—now that you've gone gay for pay—any plans on expanding your horizons further?

D.P. Hmmm—not sure where to go after that! Any thoughts?

OUTLOOKS: Yeah, I'd say a few come to mind... Derek—What's your most tactful way to inform curious fans that you're straight?

D.J. You just did!... Actually I would rather not be defined by who I sleep with at night or choose to spend most of the days of my life with. We're all just people right?! But yeah, I do love girls. Other than the fact that I DO love girls, I'm pretty much gay. Does that make everyone happy? I'm a Sagitarius, I think that's one of our personality traits? Trying to make everyone happy. ■

Dan Payne & Derek James



DVD available on amazon.ca

For more information on Mulligans please visit **www.mulligansthemovie.com**

Fairytales

INTERNATIONAL QUEER DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL 11

May 28 - June 6, 2009 | Calgary, Alberta | www.fairytalesfilmfest.com

The Plaza Theatre | EMMEDIA Gallery

Festival Parties

MEDIA LAUNCH PARTY

Wednesday, May 6 | Noon –1:00 pm
Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Road NW

OPENING NIGHT FAIRYTALES FIESTA

Thursday, May 28 | 9:30 pm – 11:30 pm
Julio's Barrio | 101 – 10 Street NW

Mix and mingle in one of Kensington's finest restaurants. Exclusive to ticketholders to THE BABY FORMULA only.

YOUTH MIXER

Saturday, May 30 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Sungate Café
1101 Kensington Road NW

All Ages Social, complimentary beverages and snacks provided courtesy of COURTNEY AARBO Barristers and Solicitors.

CLOSING GALA: HOORAY FOR HOMOWOOD COSTUME BALL

Saturday, June 6 | 9:30 pm –1:00 am
Sunnyside Hillhurst Community Centre
1320 5th Avenue NW

Dress as your favorite personality either real or reel from the silver screen. Admission is $15 or free with your ticket stub to THE NEW TWENTY. Sponsored by Steamwhistle Pilsner

FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Rork Hilford Marriage Commissioner; Blake Fiero Hair Design; Exposure Festival; Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers

COMMUNITY SPONSORS:

Calgary International Film Festival; GirlsGroove.ca; Quickdraw Animation Society; Different Strokes; InsideOut Youth Group; Miscellaneous Youth Network; Queers on Campus, Pride Calgary, Calgary Underground Film Festival, Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre; Apollo Calgary Friends in Sports; The Native Centre; Calgary Cinematheque; PFLAG; Calgary Networking Club

TICKET LOCATIONS

Bird Dog Video
1333 - 16 Avenue SW | (403) 398-2283
Open Noon - 11 pm; 7 Days a Week
Service charges will apply to credit or debit card purchases.

The Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Road NW | (403) 283-2222
Purchase same day tickets at the door 30 minutes prior to screening.

TICKET PRICES*

Opening and Closing Galas
$15 (includes after-parties)

Centerpiece Galas and all other Screenings
$10 or $9 for current FairyTales Presentation Members (must show membership card)

General Festival Pass
$99 (includes access to all film screenings and parties)

Members Festival Pass
$75 (includes access to all film screenings and parties)

**Calgary Dollars accepted at par.*

FESTIVAL FUNDING PARTNERS:

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada

MEDIA SPONSORS:

FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

AIDS CALGARY awareness association

COMMUNITY TITLE SPONSORS:

CALGARY OUTLINK

FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS:

bird dog video
COURTNEY : AARBO BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
Marnie Campbell
Sandra Sam Sebree Barrister & Solicitor
CruiseLine
METZGER DENTAL
Westways Guest House

Fairy Tales 11: May 28 to June 6, 2009

THURSDAY | MAY 28

Opening Gala Film

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

The Baby Formula

Director: Alison Reid

2009 | 81 MIN

CANADA

Athena and Lilith are two women in love. As with most couples, they dream of having a child that is a true biological combination of them both. Although Mother Nature doesn't work that way, modern science has found a way to make one plus one equal two. What begins as a story of advancements in science, THE BABY FORMULA ultimately ends in a tale of love, acceptance and family.

FRIDAY | MAY 29

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

This Land is herland: A Collection of Shorts by Women

Tonight's offering of shorts directed by women begins sobering and poignant and gradually transitions into charming, silly and sublime.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Sizzle

Director: Randy Olson

2008 | 84 MIN | USA

When the topic of global warming gets too hot, how does a marine biologist turned filmmaker cool off? He makes a mockumentary! Ranging from silly comedy to sharp satire to eye-opening reality, SIZZLE provides a fresh take on the most vital issue effecting humanity, the destruction of Mother Earth.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 11:30 pm

The Eyes of Laura Mars

Director: Ivan Kirshner

1978 | 104 MIN | USA | 35 MM

Faye Dunaway plays a fashion photographer who likes to stage her supermodels in scenes of bloody carnage. Suddenly people start dying in scenes that mimic Laura's photos, and what do you know – Laura can actually see through the killer's eyes as the murders happen!

SATURDAY | MAY 30

EMMEDIA Gallery | 12:00 pm

Saturday Morning QueerToons

Come dressed in your finest bedtime threads as we exhibit animation made by grownups for grownups.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 2:00 pm

Watercolors

Director: David Oliveras

2008 | 106 MIN | USA

You never forget your first love, and for artist Dan Wheeler, the passage of decades makes his teenage passion burn even brighter. This hot and heart-breaking adolescent romance will make you nostalgic for your own first crush.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 4:00 pm

The Lost Coast

Director: Gabriel Fleming

2008 | 74 MIN | USA

Mark, Jasper and Lily are high school friends now in their early twenties. Mark is gay, living with Lily (his high school girlfriend), while Jasper is straight and soon to be married. The Lost Coast explores the complexities of sexuality, repression, and isolation, with a quite, measured style.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

Drool

Director: Nancy Kissam

2009 | 88 MIN | USA

Laura Harring (MULHOLLAND DRIVE) plays Anora Fleece, a depressed wife and mother who feels like a nobody. That is until a new neighbor, Imogene Cochran moves in.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Deep, Dark & Delicious Shorts

Tonight we explore the darker side of queer film and video from 7 innovative filmmakers.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 11:30 pm

Otto; or Up With Dead People

Director: Bruce LaBruce

2008 | 94 MIN | GERMANY/CANADA

Otto, a young zombie trying to find his place in the world, discovers that there is a wallet in his back pocket that contains information about his past, he begins to remember memories of his ex-boyfriend Rudolf. He arranges to meet him at the schoolyard where they met with devastating results.

SUNDAY | MAY 31

THE PLAZA Theatre | 2:00 pm

Queer Movies That Matter

4 films where important social justice issues take centre stage.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 4:00 pm

herStories: Spotlight On Beauty

A comparison of work by filmmakers Maya Gallus and Deirdre Logue exploring the concept of beauty and what it means to be a woman.

Centrepiece Gala Film

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

Half-Life

Director: Jennifer Phang

2008 | 106 MIN | USA

HALF-LIFE is the compelling story of a Northern California community's struggle to relate to each other and adapt to looming global chaos. Bursting with creativity, subtle humour and beautiful cinematography and animation, Jennifer Phang's first feature film is a moving, sophisticated and completely original work.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Bandaged

Director: Maria Beatty

2009 | 91 MIN

GERMANY/USA

Lucille lives with her domineering father and great aunt in a creepy mansion out in the middle of nowhere. Feeling as though she has no way out Lucille attempts suicide after rifling in her father's lab. She survives, but is left with hideous burns to her face, which her father chooses to treat at home. He hires a sultry nurse with her own chequered past to look after Lucille. Spending 24 hours together every day leads patient and nurse to discover passionate feelings for each other, the bandages come off and soon a torrid affair begins.

MONDAY | JUNE 1

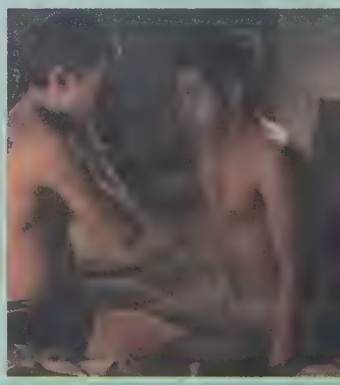
THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

DreamMakers

Director: Susan Cardinal

2007 | 47 MIN | LOCAL

FairyTales is proud to screen local artist Susan Cardinal's exceptional documentary that explores the general representation of First Nations people in film and television throughout history. Join Tantoo Cardinal and her guests: Graham Greene, August Schellenberg, Gordon Tootoosis, Nathaiel Arcand, Dakota House, Gerald Auger, Jimmy Herman, Stacy Da Silva, and many more.



THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Guy Candy Mens' Shorts

A tasty collection of shorts by men for men from around the world.

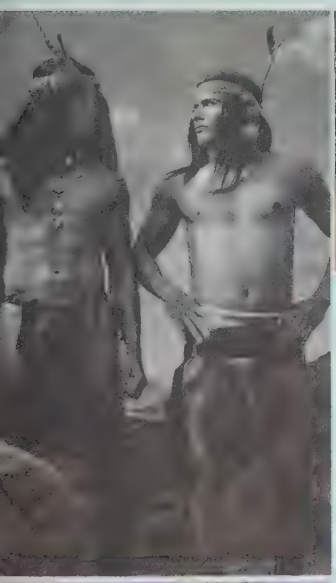
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

TUESDAY | JUNE 2

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 - 11:00 pm

The Secret Weapons Manifesto: Spotlight on Two Spirit Film & Video

FairyTales is proud to shine our spotlight on the Two-Spirit film and video community by showcasing classic and contemporary North American cinema.



WEDNESDAY | JUNE 3

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

Johnny Greyeyes

Director: Jorge Manzano

2000 | 76 MIN | CANADA | 35 MM

Since the shooting death of her father, Johnny (Gail Maurice) has spent most of her life in one kind of prison or another. Johnny eventually ends up in Kingston's notorious maximum security Prison for Women. Within these walls, she finds her being: womanhood – and Lana, her lover and companion of spirit.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Honey Moccasin

Director: Shelley Niro

1998 | 49 MIN | CANADA

The first of its kind in Canada made by an Aboriginal filmmaker, "Honey Moccasin" is set on the fictional Grand Pine Indian Reservation (aka "Reservation X") and employs a hybrid pastiche of styles that depicts the rivalry between two bars, the Smoking Moccasin and the Inukshuk Cafe, the tale of closeted drag queen/powwow clothing thief Zachery John (illy merasty), and the travails of the crusading investigator/storyteller Honey Moccasin (Tantoo Cardinal).

THURSDAY | JUNE 4

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

Drifting Flowers

Director: Zero Chou

2008 | 97 MIN | TAIWAN

Zero Chou's DRIFTING FLOWERS, her remarkable follow up to SPIDER LILIES is a thoughtful and beautiful drama that explores the lives of conflicted and lovelorn women. This homage to the sacrifices inherent in love looks at relationships between feminine and masculine women in three separate but overlapping stories.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

Antarctica

Director: Yair Hochner

2008 | 110 MIN | ISRAEL HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This wacky comedy from Israel ignores politics altogether while focusing on its characters' domestic and romantic problems. And no one has more problems than gay siblings Shirley and Omer. As the siblings sort through their feelings and prepare for adulthood, friends and relatives chime in with their advice and problems of their own.

FRIDAY | JUNE 5

THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

I Can't Think Straight

Director: Shamim Sarif

2007 | 80 MIN | UNITED KINGDOM

Gorgeous Canadian actress Lisa Ray (Deepa Mehta's WATER), stars as Tala, a London-based Palestinian, who is preparing for her elaborate Middle Eastern wedding when she meets Leyla (Sheetal Sheth), a young British Indian woman who is dating her best friend. Spirited Christian Tala and shy Muslim Leyla could not be more different from each other, but the attraction is immediate and goes deeper than friendship. I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT explores the clashes between East and West and conventions and individuality-creating a humorous and tender story of love and freedom

THE PLAZA Theatre | 9:30 pm

The Art of Being Straight

Director: Jesse Rosen

2008 | 77 MIN | USA

After a break-up with his girlfriend, John moves west to Los Angeles for a fresh start. He is officially back on the market and looking to score. John takes an entry-level position at an ad agency, determined to prove himself. Things get a little confusing when Paul, a successful executive at the firm, takes a special interest in John, and when John ends up in Paul's bed, his world is turned completely upside down.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 11:30 pm

The Astounding Adventures of Strongman & Quickboy

Director: Peter Kingstone

2007 | 82 MIN CANADA

This ultra-low budget video shot on weekend road trips from Toronto to Sudbury is a narrative about disease, death, love, getting older, and sex.

SATURDAY | JUNE 6

EMMEDIA Gallery | 12:00 pm

Common Ground Community Bridge Building Project
SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Three very different films explore themes associated with health and wellness and the community.

THE PLAZA Theatre | 2:00 pm

Super Surprise Family Film

Bring the kiddies or your big kid at heart as FairyTales presents a classic film for the entire family. We're not going to tell you what it is, only that it's campy, happy and a great film for same-sex parents to bring their little ones!

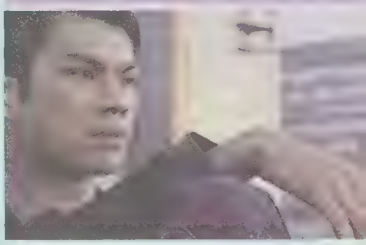
THE PLAZA Theatre | 4:00 pm

To Each Her Own

Director: Heather Tobin

2008 | 112 MIN | CANADA

Jessica is married to her high school best friend Trevor, despite having romantic feelings for girls. Set on the typical small-town suburban path, Jessica feels pressure to start planning for a baby. However, when Jess meets openly gay Casey she is instantly captivated by the outgoing and extroverted woman and a romantic bond quickly develops. As Jess spends more time alone with Casey and more effort avoiding her husband, her life begins spinning out of control.



THE PLAZA Theatre | 7:00 pm

The New Twenty

Director: Chris Mason Johnson

2008 | 92 MIN | USA

Thirty isn't what it used to be. Writer-director Chris Mason Johnson's award-winning first feature charts the lives of five New Yorkers, a mix of gay and straight best friends about to turn thirty. So if money isn't the root of their discontent, what is? Whatever they're searching for - love, meaning in work - they won't find it in each other. On TV, friendship lasts forever. In real life, not so much.

Films Screened:

Secret Weapons
Director: Adam Garnet Jones
2008 | 5 MIN | CANADA

Nikamowin (Song)
Director: Kevin Lee Burton
2007 | 11 MIN | CANADA | CREE/ ENGLISH

Shooting Geronimo
Director: Kent Monkman
2007 | 11 MIN | CANADA

I Heard a Light
Director: Beric Manywounds
2008 | ? MIN | CANADA

Smudge
Director: Gail Maurice
2005/12 MIN | CANADA

Apples and Indians
Director: Lorne Olson
2006 | 5 MIN | CANADA

Madness in Four Actions
Director: Thirza Cuthand
2008 | 8 MIN | CANADA

Me Mengwa Maa Sinatae: Butterfly Patterns of Light
Director: Marjorie Beaucage
2008 | 24 MIN | CANADA

Guest Panelists:

Adam Garnet Jones
Gail Maurice
Kent Monkman
Kevin Lee Burton
Beric Manywounds
Marjorie Beaucage
Thirza Cuthand
Lorne Olson

TUESDAY | JUNE 2

The Secret Weapons Manifesto: Spotlight on Two Spirit Film & Video

FairyTales is proud to shine our spotlight on the Two-Spirit film and video community by showcasing classic and contemporary North American cinema.

Join our impressive panel of both veteran and novice Two-Spirit filmmakers from across Canada as they examine whether the intentions of artists and festivals that celebrate queer and/or aboriginal diversity with the intention of empowering their own people has ironically created a cultural insularity that actually forsakes visibility to the larger community. FairyTales hopes to challenge the panelists to engage with their peers and with the audience their perceptions of the current status of queer, Canadian Two-Spirit film and video works and what the future may hold.

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada

DOMAINS $21

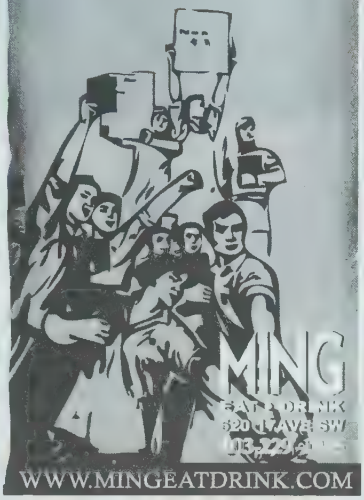
includes e-mail, blog, hosting*
PLUS MUCH MORE!

www.ABS-HOSTING.com
see website for full details **
A DIVISION OF UR IMPROV INC

Cruise
Gay Astrology's Website
www.AccessNewAge.com
Stargayzer
for Lichtenstein's horoscopes
Gay Love Signs,
Closets in your Chart
Stonewall horoscope
This site offers easy to order
personal readings

Food, Drink & Fine Propaganda Since 1997

Join The Revolution



MING
EAT & DRINK
520 17 AVE SW
403-229-2[illegible]

WWW.MINGEATDRINK.COM

VANCOUVER'S ORIGINAL PRIDE CRUISE®

Cruisey T .com

KICK OFF CRUISE
SUNDAY MAY 24
Canada's Largest Floating T-Dance

SEATTLE PRIDE CRUISE June 27th

DJ Zach Shore
Drag Performances with Joan-E & Syren

Boarding 3:30 pm / Cruise 4 - 8 pm

$7 BBQ available on board

Advance tickets
$20 available online at
www.cruisey.com,
and at Little Sisters Bookstore
or Priape.
$30 dockside (if available)

SEASONS PASSES
(includes your
choice of
2 Pride Cruises)
$125
(save $60)

Cruise aboard the MV Britannia
Harbour Cruises
501 Denman Street
604-281-8031
(604-551-2628)

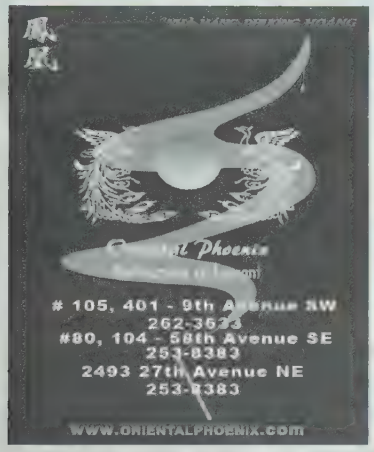
Partial proceeds to benefit The Centre

Get your TICKETS ONLINE!

DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

A Celebrity Productions B.C. and A Country Productions Ltd.

OUTLOOKS · PRIAPE · Vanity · SKYY · CELEBRITIES · CTV · XTRA · OASIS · Wicked Web Design & Hosting · gayvan.com · east van



Oriental Phoenix

105, 401 - 9th Avenue SW
262-3623
#80, 104 - 58th Avenue SE
253-8383
2493 27th Avenue NE
253-8383

WWW.ORIENTALPHOENIX.com

Melrose Cafe & Bar

Whatever your mood,
Whatever your taste,

We've got you covered

melrose CAFE & BAR

Cafe · Bar · Patio

720 - 17TH Ave SW Phone 228-1266

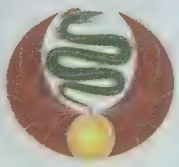
www.melrosecalgary.com

PAM ANN
LIVE

Vancouver
Calgary
Montreal
Toronto

„BUSY BUSY BUSY!"
CANADIAN TOUR
May 22nd - 30th 2009
Tickets: www.pamann-live.com
www.myspace.com/pamannalthestess www.pamann.com

DIGITAL AVATAR



{ BEFORE AFTER }

E] info@digitalavatar.ca P] 403.235.0789 W] digitalavatar.ca

GRAPHICDESIGNSOLUTIONS

Fasten Your Seatbelts

Ogunquit PlayHouse
Photo credit: David Sullivan

Move over, Thelma and Louise...here we come! Two recent getaways a pal and I shared were such fun experiences that I'm dying to share them with you. Firstly, our Canadian road trip was to the beautiful Southern Ontario location, Prince Edward County. This gay and lesbian friendly mecca for artists, nature lovers and adventure seekers is a mere hop, skip and a jump from Toronto. So, if you're a local, there is absolutely no excuse not to investigate the variety of unique treasures that Picton, Bloomfield, Wellington, Cherry Valley, etc. have in store for you. Whether it's sailing, fishing, biking or taking a vigorous hike through the giant sand dunes, nothing relaxes you like the fresh air and cool water this atmospheric spot has to offer. (Unless, of course, you visit the magnificent St. Anne's Spa, a lushly indulgent palace of pampering, located in the nearby, quaint town of Port Hope.) Some other faboo Prince Edward County assets are its numerous art galleries and antique shops, along with its diverse restaurants and cafes. Lastly, be certain to check out its thriving regional wineries. You'll thank me later! So, book a bed and breakfast, put the pedal to the metal, and enjoy your very own delightful respite from the daily madness of city life.

Getaway number two involves flying into Boston (capital city of Massachusetts, the first American state to legalize same-sex marriage) before hitting the road in a rented car for the artsy resort, Ogunquit, Maine. This extremely picturesque, coastal New England town, named by the Micmac Indians, means "beautiful place by the sea." And that name is 100 percent on the money, believe me! Ogunquit's many gay and lesbian inns and guest houses are suitable for every traveler's preference and/or budget; but book in advance to avoid disappointment. This charming village's overall vibe is casual, alluring and inviting. And the helpful locals seem to genuinely like tourists, which is refreshing. The impressive selection of bars, clubs and restaurants can't be beat. Eating an unbelievably delicious, fresh lobster dinner, while sitting oceanside was pure heaven. Ogunquit offers lots to explore. Whether it's a scenic cruise, deep sea fishing, hiking along the rocky coastline, shopping, or just lazily walking their three miles of spectacular, pristine sandy white beaches that are like buttah for your toes, you can't go wrong. As well, the popular theatrical productions at The Ogunquit Playhouse are a huge success and tickets can be scarce, as we unfortunately discovered.

Some other welcoming towns we visited, within easy driving distance of Boston, were: Cambridge (Harvard University, Paul Revere's midnight ride); Salem (witchcraft trials, historical architecture); Rockport (Opera House, harbourfront); Freeport (LL Bean, Historical Society); Portland (brewery tour, Old Port Exchange). We were honestly running out of time before we ran out of things to do!

I'll leave you with a few words of advice that'll keep you from having your own "hitting-the-open-road" experience turn into an abject nightmare: Make a specific travel plan; always keep a map handy, alternate the driving duties; do not overpack; keep an eye on the gas gauge; take turns picking the music; never, ever say "Are we there yet?"; and, most importantly, choose your traveling companion wisely. Homo-erotic...tres bien! Homo-neurotic... mais non! Have fun and remember to fasten your seat belts. ■

Prince Edward County - photo courtesy of Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce

Ogunquit, Maine
Photo credit: Jordan Freeman

Summer Sneak Peak

by David King

If you think corporations have taken a hit in this year's stinky economy, just imagine how non-profits and charities must feel; many of which are largely supported by the same private corporations. The strapped budgets tighten even further for groups producing many of the country's biggest queer events this summer. So, there's no time like the present than to get out there and give back to your own community. Thinking Pride? Think outside the box—here's a mere sampling of some of the exciting events we have to look forward to as we tackle our recession:

May

We're Funny That Way: The 13th Incarnation of one of North America's biggest queer comedy fests, hosted by Maggie Cassella. May 6-9 at Buddies: **www.artssexy.ca**.

Outwrites' *Four Voices, No Walls*: Free admission. Outwrites presents a staged reading of queer writing by Playwrights' Canada Guild members Caroline Azar, Don Bapst, Bruce Bell and Sonja Mills. Saturday, May 9 at 8 p.m. **www.outwrites.org**

Inside Out: Toronto's always-packed Inside Out Film Fest is the first in line to kick off an exciting summer of queer activities. This year's edition takes place May 14 to 24. **www.insideout.on.ca**

Fairy Tales: Calgary's fantastic queer film fest presents its 11th edition from May 28 to June 6. **www.fairytalesfilmfest.com**

June

Queer West Fest Toronto: From June 12 to 20, Queer West will present the fourth annual Queer Toronto Queer West Fest Week, featuring music, art, community events that include the second annual **Queer West Film Festival** and the Gay West Bicycle Club's **Pride Ride**. **http://queerwest.org**

Sexy Pride: As usual, Buddies In Bad Times will celebrate Toronto Pride with a slew of events, including the annual cabaret by Buddies' Youth Group, **PrideCab**. June 12-28. **www.artsexy.ca**

Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo: Cowtown's now infamous Gay Rodeo takes place this year in Strathmore, just east of Calgary. June 26–28. **www.argra.org**

July

Festival International Montréal en Arts (FIMA): This year's explosive outdoor visual arts extravaganza in and around Montreal's gay village takes place July 5 with the usual array of local and guest international artists, surrounded by the terrace charm of some of Montréal's top restos and clubs. **www.festivaldesarts.org**

Toto, Too: Ottawa gay and lesbian community theatre company **Toto, Too** kicks off 2009 with its annual fundraiser *Swirl and Twirl* May 28, followed by a production of *Happy Birthday* by Vancouver's David Blue from July 15 to 18. **www.tototoo.ca**

Divers-cité: July 26 to August 2: Montréal's "pluridisciplinary" arts festival and now one of the largest outdoor queer festivals of its kind, Divers-cité features everything from outdoor cinemas, contemporary dance and extravagant drag shows to internationally renowned DJ events. **www.diverscite.org**

August and Beyond

Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival offers up nine glorious days of Queerdom at galleries, cafés, stages and cinemas throughout the city. November 13 to 22. **www.exposurefestival.ca**

Festival Black and Blue: Bad Boys Club, Montréal's biggest long weekend event of the year, is more than just circuit parties, DJs and all-nighters. October 7–13. Visit **www.bbcm.org** for info on this and other long weekend events throughout the summer.

Girl Play Toronto: Calling itself "Canada's largest all-girl party," Girl Play brings on a week of entertainment and international participation by and for women. Sept. 3-7. **www.girlplaytoronto.com**

Harvest Festival: Each Fall, Montréal's Village Scene Productions organizes a community-driven queer performing arts fest, featuring local and guest artist productions. Upcoming in 2009 are *Suddenly Last Summer* and (en français) *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Check the schedule at **www.villagescene.com**

Image et nation: One of North America's oldest queer film fests, the 22nd edition of *Image et nation* takes place each fall at various locations in Montréal. Watch for this year's official dates at **www.image-nation.org**.

Loud 'n' Queer Cabaret: Presented last year during the Exposure Festival, Guys In Disguise presents the longest running annual queer cabaret of new work in Western Canada. *Loud 'N' Queer* is a staple of the Edmonton arts scene, or as the Edmonton Sun puts it, "a potpourri of poofterism". **www.Guysindisguise.com**

Out on Screen Queer Film Festival: Vancouver's exciting queer film fest has a huge outreach to students and independent filmmakers, as well as a fascinating queer history project on Vancouver's queer history. August 13–23. **www.queerfilmfestival.ca** ■

2009 Pride Guide

According to the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Coordinators (InterPride), the global pride theme for 2009 is "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights". The theme is an important one as America struggles to catch up with Canada in the context of gay marriage, and even more befitting when we consider the number of smaller town, start-up Prides in Canada still fighting huge battles in order to celebrate their cultural diversity.

Trekking across the country, meanwhile, here are some fab Pride events we could muster up for you under our Canuck Rainbow:

BC

- Victoria Pride: June 28-July 5. **www.victoriapridesociety.org**
- Vancouver Pride: August 1-2. **www.vancouverpride.ca**

Alberta

- Pride Calgary: September 5-6. **www.pridecalgary.ca**
- Edmonton Pride Week: June 12-21. **www.prideedmonton.org**

Saskatchewan

- Saskatoon Pride: June 7-13. **www.saskatoonpride.ca**
- Regina Pride: June 13-20. **www.gaycanada.com/pride-regina**

Manitoba

- Winnipeg Pride Festival: June 5-14. **http://gaypridewinnipeg.com**

Ontario

- Windsor Pride: August 5-9. **www.windsorpride.com**
- Pride London Festival: July 16-26. **www.prideondon.ca**
- Halton Pride: June 6. **www.haltonpride.org**
- Hamilton Pride Week: June 13-21. **www.hamiltonpride.com**
- Pride Events Peel: July 11-12. **www.prideventspeel.com**
- Tri-Pride Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo: May 31-June 6. **www.tri-pride.ca**
- Pride Week Toronto: June 19-28. **www.pridetoronto.com**
- Capital Pride Ottawa: August 21-30. **www.prideottawa.com**

Québec

- Québec City: September 4-6. **www.glbtquebec.org**
- Célébrations de la Fierté de Montréal: August 13-16. **www.fiertemontrealpride.com**

New Brunswick

- Port City Rainbow Pride Saint John: August 9-15. **www.portcityrainbowpride.com**
- Moncton Pride: August 15-23. **www.fiertemonctonpride.ca**

PEI

- PEI Pride: July 3-11. **www.arcofpei.com** (info site).

Nova Scotia

- Halifax Pride: July 19-26. **http://halifaxpride.org**
- Pride Cape Breton: August 8-15. **www.pridecapebreton.com**

Newfoundland

- St. John's Pride: July 18-25. (no website yet).

Mister Congeniality

Get to know the *Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model* hopefuls

by Maxine Dean

Producer Terry Costa confides his vision for the event – a fun community affair, doing good work for charity while celebrating the gorgeousness of gay men.

Any visitor to Vancouver knows it's packed to the rafters with hot boys. And it's by far the biggest gay mecca in Western Canada. So it only makes sense that the city, the country, nay the world, should get to know some of those beautiful boys. And that's what *Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model* is all about.

The program's creator, Terry Costa, is a show-manager of many years, working with his company Mirateca Arts to produce everything from local drag artiste performances to the Mr. Gay World competition. His first attempt—in 2008—was made into a reality series by OutTV. There are fewer hopefuls this year than last, and Terry believes the house-music-and-flashing-lights approach of the TV show scared off a lot of potential models. He confides his hope that this year will stick to his original vision for the event

Each of the events raises funds for Friends For Life (**friendsforlife.ca**), a local non-profit organization that provides health and support services for Vancouver's LGBT community. Numerous bars, clubs, performers and promoters have donated their time free of charge to help the cause, and sponsors have signed up in droves. I joined Terry and his team to learn exactly what goes on behind the scenes of *Vancouver's Next Top Gay Model*.

"I am Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model because my mom says so" — *Billy.*

The Auditions

As I arrive at the cavernous Celebrities Nightclub at noon on Sunday, January 18, some eager boys are already filling out registrations. Each guy walks and introduces himself to the judges—Terry, promoter Idris Hudson, blogstud Sean Horlor, photographer Nicholas Jang, others and me. There's a variety of types, but definitely angling towards the young and slim. We quickly get a feel for some of the personalities: Adam is gregarious and chatty; Peter clings to his Blackberry like a safety blanket; Morgan makes an off-colour joke which you can see he instantly regrets; Joel seems shy and not aware of his own beauty. They dare each other on with ever more outrageous runway displays—yoga poses, back flips, buttless Speedos. Co-judge Sean Horlor confirms, with regret, that he's actually *not* allowed to sleep with any of the models.

Finally, Terry announces that sixteen models will move on to the next level. As the successful cuties prepare for their close-ups, I chat to each in turn. It's actually a great way to meet people, and I can see that the boys are starting to get to know each other, too.

The Teasers

Over the next three months, the boys are introduced to their slavering fans at a series of "teaser" events. Each has a different theme at a different location, and presents the boys with different challenges. The judges and the voting public whittle down the selection a little more each time; although some of the boys choose to voluntarily drop out, uncomfortable with the limelight. It's not easy to strip down to your nethers for a crowd of strangers, you know. Even those who don't make it through remain to cheer on the rest, though—it *is* all about World Peace, after all.

A Winter Wonderland party at Pulse Nightclub involves drag diva Miss Cotton asking the boys why they deserve to win. At the Sports Night at big-screen boy-bar Score, Calan rocks his Olivia Newton-John "Physical" workout gear, while Adam gets TMI, explaining how he always plays fullback, "and yes, that also describes me in bed." Reece announces that he's here to "represent all the coloured gurls in the house." It's nice to see the boys loosening up, even Joel, who's got that Blue Steel look going for him now.

In between the public events, there are photo shoots, video shoots, workshops and more. Meanwhile, the judges score the boys on their choice of outfits, their walk-stop-pose abilities, even their public speaking skills. By the time the Sweat Under Gear Challenge rolls around (taking place at Maxine's Hideaway, a former brothel), we're down to nine finalists: Adam, Billy, Calan, Joel, Micheil, Morgan, Reece, Ryan and Stephen.

The Finale

The big night arrives, bringing it all full circle with a massive production at Celebrities Nightclub. I've decided to leave the boys to their preparations—they have enough on their minds tonight without my butting in. The crowd is packed with each model's supporters—gaggles of girlfriends and hot young guys. So many that it makes me wonder why so few auditioned. The show is huge, a two-hour juggernaut featuring local performers, a dozen presenters and tons of costume changes for the boys.

Throughout the night, the crowd votes by text for their favourite, and presenters announce additional prizes. Joel wins a photo shoot with Sweat Under Gear—you'll be able to buy his crotch very soon; Joel and Reece will appear together on the cover of *Dante's Cove*, actor Charlie David's new novel *Boy Midflight*. But in the end, there can be only one, and it's up to the pros to choose from the top three: Adam, Calan or Joel.

And the winner is... Calan! It's a huge and emotional night for the twenty-two-year-old redhead from Coquitlam—as well as winning the masses of prizes, including a two-year modelling contract with *I Model Management*, a trip for two to London with British Airways, a getaway to Whistler courtesy of **gaywhistler.com** and Rocky Mountaineer train—he'd only just come out to his father that very day.

As the competitions have gone on, the boys have become more confident, more ready to think of themselves as models. Regardless of who won, the show has brought many of them out of their comfort zone with something exciting and new. For a bunch of competing queens in close quarters, there's been remarkably little bitchery, and in fact some undeniable flirtations. Some great and lasting friendships have been made, money has been raised for a worthy cause, and Vancouver has got to know some varied and fascinating gay men. ■

photo: nicholas jang www.double-take2.ca

Contestants from left to right: Billy, Stephen, Morgan, Adam, Joel, Ryan, Reece, Micheil, and Calan.

Terminating Employment and Laying Off Employees

There are rules in each province that employers must follow when an employee is either laid-off or terminated (discharged/fired).

A layoff could be temporary if the employer wishes to maintain an employment relationship without terminating the employment of the employee; or, an employee may be laid-off permanently, which means the employment relationship ends.

Termination, also known as *discharge*, may mean dismissal, a forced resignation or that an employee is fired, possibly for just cause. A written notice may be required for termination /discharge or layoff. The rules and regulations vary from province to province. As an example:

- **British Columbia:** after three consecutive months of employment—one week's pay; and after twelve consecutive months of employment—two weeks' pay. (For more information, refer to *BC Employment Standards Act and Regulations*.)
- **Alberta:** One week—if the employee has been employed by the employer for more than three months, but less than two years; and two weeks—if the employee has been employed by the employer for two years or more, but less than four years. (For more information, refer to *AB Employment Standards Code and Regulations*.)
- **Saskatchewan:** The minimum notice depends on an employee's length of service: three months to one year—one week; and one to three years—two weeks. (For more information, refer to *SK Labour Standards Act*.)

Both employers and employees give each other notice of their intention to end the employment relationship. If the period of employment is three months or less, no notice is required from either party.

Regular employment insurance benefits can be paid if the employee loses a job through no fault of his/her own. To be eligible for benefits, employees must show that they have been without work and without pay for at least seven consecutive days and that, in the last fifty two weeks, employees have worked for the required number of insurable hours. These hours are based on where an employee lives and the unemployment rate in his/her economic region. To find more information on EI Economic Regions, go to:

http://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/canada.aspx.

Remember that benefits, such as sickness, maternity, parental or compassionate care, are subject to their own specific legislative provisions.

If an employee voluntarily quits his/her job without cause; or, if an employee is fired due to his/her own misconduct, he/she may not be paid regular benefits. Be sure to apply as soon as you stop working, even if you don't have your Record of Employment (ROE). If you have difficulty in obtaining your ROE from your employer(s), contact Service Canada Centre at 1-800-206-7218.

In my opinion, employment related complaints are on the rise and will continue to increase, based on the economy and reduction /elimination of jobs.

Know your rights. Whether you belong to a union or fall under federal or provincial jurisdiction, people are entitled to a fair process. ■

For more information go to www.mayersconsultingservice.com

Don't You Wish...

Kallen is a rugged 19 year old who currently calls Montréal home. Right now, he's living life and enjoying his work as a bar back and bus boy at a local club. One of the scariest moments in his life was being hurt in a serious motorcycle accident and having to undergo brain surgery. His full recovery and survival helped him gain a new appreciation for life.

Kallen found that he also experienced his most embarrassing moment in life through his accident. He will never forget how awkward it was being sponge bathed by a nurse many, many times his age!

His biggest fantasy is to one day make a career out of modeling. He hopes that his appearance as a finalist on Season 4 of COVERguy, on OUTtv, will help him get that much closer to a life of high fashion on runways around the world.

Photo credit: Brian Lawrence

Kallen

Couch Talk (continued from page 13)

We need to challenge theories that divide or pathologize us, especially when those theories are suggested by those who are not part of our community. Don't tell me I am inferior unless you are part of my group. At least then I know that you really need to beat yourself up for being gay and not just because you don't have a clue how difficult it is to live in this skin with a world around that often projects a holier-than-thou attitude.

If you are queer, don't swallow every pill just because someone says it is good for you. Aspirin and arsenic have different effects. A theory that makes you feel less than is probably one that (a) oversimplifies your existence, such as exaggerating your sexuality over your identity. (That's why we don't like the descriptor of "homosexual" any more, right? Who we have sex with is only a small aspect of being gay; (b) denigrates your existence (like Freud's theory that makes gay men and all women look and feel inferior, or the Bible verses often spewed at us); or (c) is simply wrong.

The only pills I am going to swallow will help me wake up each morning and celebrate the wonderful diversity in which I find myself. I hope you, too, remember to celebrate today. You don't know if it might be your last. ■

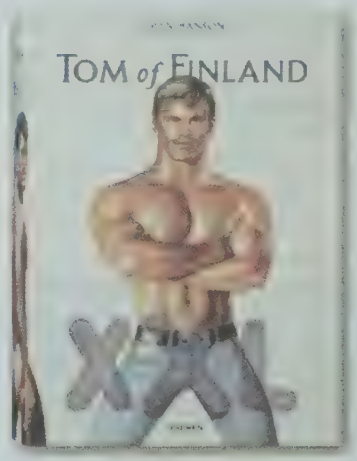
References

Bayer, R. (1981). *Homosexuality and American psychiatry*. New York: Basic.

Freud, S. (1951). "Letter to an American Mother." *American Journal of Psychiatry, 107*, 787.

Hooker, E. (1957). The adjustment of the male overt homosexual. *Journal of Projective Techniques, 21*, 18-31.

Mays, V. M., & Cochran, S. D. (2001). Mental health correlates of perceived discrimination among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health, 91*, 1869-1876.



WIN A COPY

(value $200 US)

Send an email, including name, mailing address, and phone number to:

main@outlooks.ca

The subject line must contain "Tom of Finland contest".

Winner to be announced June 1, 2009.

Marketplace

You Can Reach over 148,000 GLBT consumers monthly through 600 local distribution points coast to coast as well as online!

Personal Services

VICTORIA MASSAGE
Tantric Magic

MASSAGE 4 MEN
Slow, Relaxing & Complete
Mutual Full Body Experience
'A Journey of Touch'
Colin: 250-984-7051

4 HANDS MASSAGE
Male & Female couple
Explore Your Boundaries
Mindful – Exciting – Relaxing
250-984-2324

BEST MASSAGE IN INGLEWOOD
Increase your energy and eliminate tight sore muscles.
Relaxation, Therapeutic, and Hot Stone Massage.

2 Therapists available
Mike Wolff RMT 403 680-0533
John Estabrooks RMT 403 803-1594
*Use your extended health benefits
In Core Potentials building.
www.chakralighthealing.com

Calgary Civil Marriage Centre

Weddings & Marriages
Immediate or by Appointment
All vows & paper work included
Witness available

- Religion Free
- Standard & Specialized Ceremonies
- Cross Cultural
- Same Sex GLBT-TTQ

Rork Hilford MC
Marriage Commissioner for Alberta
AKA (Justice of The Peace - JP)
Marriage Officiant
Commissioner for Oaths

ca.ca@shaw.ca
403-246-4134

HOT GUYS!
HOT CHAT!
HOT FUN!
Call 800-777-8000
FREE w/ Code 4627

InteractiveMale.com

Massage the Way You Want

Relaxation, therapeutic, & erotic massage

Mobile only
10 AM - 11 PM
Calgary only

Call Trom at 403-230-4462
$80/hour

Massage In Edmonton

Experienced registered massage therapist.
Specializing in relaxation and pain relief massage therapy.

For appointment phone **Dwayne (780)918-5856**

CALL 1-888-228-1157 to Advertise

Entertainment

"Different Strokes Swim Club:

A very friendly and supportive masters swim club for beginner to advanced swimmers. We work hard at swimming, but we don't neglect the fun! Come out and join us! Check practice times and location info at
http://www.differentstrokescalgary.org

Services

SHIFT works with adults in the sex trade. We provide services for both those who do not want to exit and those who do.

SHIFT provides: FREE safer sex supplies, non-judgmental counseling, and more.

403-237-8171

Real Estate

Private River Retreat
in west central Alberta

36 Acres - 7 Bedroom Lodge,
4 Bedroom House, 1 Bedroom Suite
$1.05 Million

propertyguys.com and enter #46781
http://www.lazymcanada.com
1-866-382-LAZY

Advertising Rates
4 color or B&W Display Ad
1 column
1.18" x 1.473" - $80
2 column vertical
0.786" x 2.008" - $115
2 column horizontal
2.4" x 1.5" - $140

Line Rate Ads
$20 per headline
- 25 letter max and
$2 per word,
10 word minimum
Multiple Insertion discounts
3 month 5%
6 month 10%
12 month 15%

Resorts and B&Bs - USA

Palm Springs, California
Beautiful Mountains, Dry Heat, Hot Men.
Book online:
LaDolceVitaResort.com or 1-877-644-4111
Mention *Outlooks* 10% discount for first time guests.

Resorts and B&Bs - Mexico

PUERTO VALLARTA MEXICO
Boana-Torre Malibu / Condo Hotel, Amapas 325, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico. Tel/fax: 011 52 (322) 222-6695, tel:011 52 (322) 222-0999, www.boana.net boana@pvnet.com.mx One block from gay beach. Each unit has one bedroom, two bathrooms, kitchenette, living room, balcony, air-conditioning. Maid service. Gay Vallarta's largest pool. Office open daily 9am-5pm (CT).

Travel Services

MAKING VACATION DREAMS A REALITY!

Personalized in home or office travel planning services. Air, Adventure Vacations, Cruises, Resorts, Packages, Hotels, Golf Vacations.

Call Mike at (780) 417-5724
or Toll Free 1-866-336-9998

Travel Cruises and more.

WE ALSO DO GROUPS!

Announcements

Wisdom 11:24

"You love everything that exists and hate nothing that you have made."

God loves you and created you gay.

www.createdgay.com

Erotic Massage

MALE 4 MALE MASSAGE THERAPIST
is offering "EROTIC /SENSUAL FULL BODY MASSAGE" . I am 4 years certified in deep tissue and sports injury massage and VERY qualified to perform erotic massage. D&D FREE. I am safe, clean, young and great looking. I have a Home Studio in the NW. PROFILE (28, 5'11, 180lbs masculine) (mutual touch welcomed).

AWESOME EVERYDAY RATES

403. 797. 0141

Animal Care

Natural Hoof Care Seminars

2 Day Hands-On
Intensive Training

By Certified Instructor

GREAT for your Horse
(Easy on your Cheque Book)

www.lazymcanada.com

1-403-722-3053

Click... Shop... Support...

Travel

www.hotel-mercurio.com
What Are You Dreaming Of... Puerto Vallarta, Mexico's Gay Beach

www.boana.net
Condo hotel - one block from gay beach – Puerto Vallarta

www.westjet.com
Non stop to Vegas – Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Vancouver

www.warmsandvillas.com
Private resort in Palm Springs – clothing optional

http://www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/DonaldMcKay
The only travel agency in Calgary belonging to: IGLTA International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association

www.Sandfvr.com
Stunning views / desert modern

www.out-adventures.com
Get OUT and experience the real world. Small groups. Seven continents. Gay travel adventures

Bed & Breakfasts

www.innonsomerset.com
Discover the comfort of the Inn on Somerset (Ottawa)

www.LaLoggia.ca
In heart of the Montreal Gay village, an elegant B&B

Fine Arts

www.webstergalleries.com
Exceptional fine arts for over 28 years

Dining

www.orientalphoenix.com
Vietnamese (Calgary)

www.melrosecalgary.com
Café – Bar – Patio (Calgary)

www.mingeatdrink.com
Food drink and fine propaganda since 1997 (Calgary)

Bars and Clubs

www.twistedelement.ca
Calgary's largest gay nightclub (Calgary)

www.stampedecasino.com
Calgary's newest casino and show lounge

www.deerfoot.com
Inn, Restaurant, Casino and Show lounge (Calgary)

www.playnightclub.ca
Nightclub in Edmonton

Real Estate

www.lazymcanada.com
Private River Retreat in west central Alberta. 1-866-382-LAZY

www.maxwellrealty.ca/marniecampbell
Marnie Campbell – Realtor "Out There With You" (Calgary)

Events

www.pamann-live.com
Pam Ann Canadian Tour

www.cruiseyt.com
Vancouver's Original Pride Cruise

Renovations/Trades

www.reymark.com
Home renovation specialists (Calgary)

www.tritd.ca
Home renovation specialist (Edmonton)

Services

www.ageless.ca
Skin rejuvenation – laser hair removal (Calgary)

www.akrpc.ca
Certified General Accountant (Calgary)

www.digitalavatar.ca
Graphic design – website design – writing – copy editing (Calgary)

www.weddingmyway.com
I would be honoured to serve as your Wedding Officiant (Calgary)

Rork Hilford - ca.ca@shaw.ca
Calgary Civil Marriage Centre (Same-Sex)

www.blacktiebartending.ca
Calgary's elite contract bartending service

www.createdgay.com

www.improvresources.com
A resource for improvisational books

www.lgbt4sale.com

www.canadianbathhouse.com

www.readeprojects.com

www.abs-hosting.com
For discount domains and hosting

www.differentstrokescalgary.org

Direct customers to your Website for only $12.00 per month.
Call 1-888-228-1157

MAY Horoscope

May surprises us with a bolt of blazing planetary activity. Feel things heat up as the Sun tickles stern Saturn and bumps lucky Jupiter. Will you get what you want? Just be sure of what you exactly want...

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
If money is the root of all evil, gay Rams manage to get to the root of things this May. The strength or weakness of your finances will dictate how liberated or restricted you feel. The cosmos advises you to rein in your expenses, monitor your partner's spending, avoid grand, platonic gestures of generosity and save a little for a rainy day. A tall order for you!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
It's all about you this May. Queer Bulls are in the limelight. As you grab all the attention, you will need to find successful ways to rein in the loose ends so they don't tangle you up. Find balance between the nitpicky aspects of your job and your long-term life goals. Is there conflict? Are you being dragged down by inconsequential tasks? Soar, and leave the crawling to others.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Long-suppressed secrets will find a way of popping up this May. And they will do so in a very public way. Though it may not feel especially comfortable, it can be cathartic and ultimately is all good. So prepare your global message and spin it if necessary. There is nothing more attractive than a pink Twin who is willing to expose himself/herself a little. A little? A lot!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Chit-chat among friends can lead gay Crabs into all sorts of mischief this May. Gossip flies and things can be blown out of proportion. There is a buzz that makes one thing lead to another and another. Find ways of cutting through the opinion to get to the facts. Find out the who, what, when, where and why. But how? That is the question!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Money and the power of it will drive many of your decisions this May. The lure of lucre impacts how hard you work and how much time you spend cultivating certain relationships. There will be times when you need to expend more resources than expected with less tangible gain. How will it all pan out, proud Lion? Why not just find a well-endowed benefactor?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Prepare for a few false starts as your efforts to reach out and connect to others may take more time and effort than you anticipate. But delays in this case are not bad. What it means is that you need to better polish your presentation, and practice, practice, practice. Experiment with new approaches and techniques. Of course, interviews in the nude should not be approached.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
There is intrigue aplenty this May as undercover sexy liaisons become exposed in a big way. The cat is out of the bag and so are you. Good. There was too much stress related to these sets of affairs. They held you back from doing what you need to do to be happy. Now that the curtain is open, you can free yourself of any restrictions and do your thing—whatever that thing is.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Queer Scorps looking for a relationship can find it in the most unusual places this May. So get Out there. Explore different hunting rounds and see who is waiting for you by the bar. Of course, there are those who are perfectly content in their current partnerships. If so, try to spruce and juice it up to keep life engaged and interesting. Err or is it *trim* and squeeze?

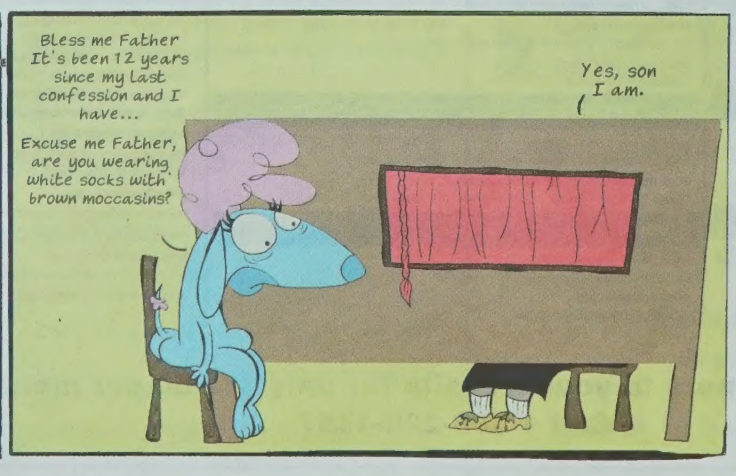
SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
How often have you held your tongue and not said what needed to be said on the job? Too often, I suspect. And it may be especially hard to keep yourself from commenting on the absurdities of the workplace this May. Gay Archers have limited patience and will struggle to ignore and persevere. Sounds like a great excuse for a vacation—or a very long lunch. Hint. Hint.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Pink Caps become bon vivants this May and can be tempted to spend lavishly on sorted and assorted good times. Whoo Hoo! Go to the outer limit and see how far your good times can reach. Be joyous, free thinking and absurdly generous. Of course, all play and no work will leave folks scratching their heads and asking, "Who are you and what have you done with Capricorn?"

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Your private and public life meet head on this May. Not only are you out in front of the crowd, you are given a rare opportunity to meet high and mighty influentials who can lend you a hand. Aqueerians need to find useful ways to monitor and maneuver through a minefield of social protocols so that they can maximize this opening. Sigh. Isn't that always the challenge?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Don't even think of hiding the facts from partners this May. There is nothing you can do to prevent the truth from leaking out. And this is good, because you are not adept at keeping secrets. Guppies are especially intuitive now. Use these good vibes to connect warring factions and bring about peace. If not peace, then at least measured co-existence.

© 2009 THE STARRY EYE, LLC., All Rights Reserved. For Entertainment Purposes Only. Lichtenstein's blog www.thestarryeye.typepad.com covers everything new age. Her astrology book *HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians* is an international sensation. Buy it and feel the vibration!



www.mrgisby.com

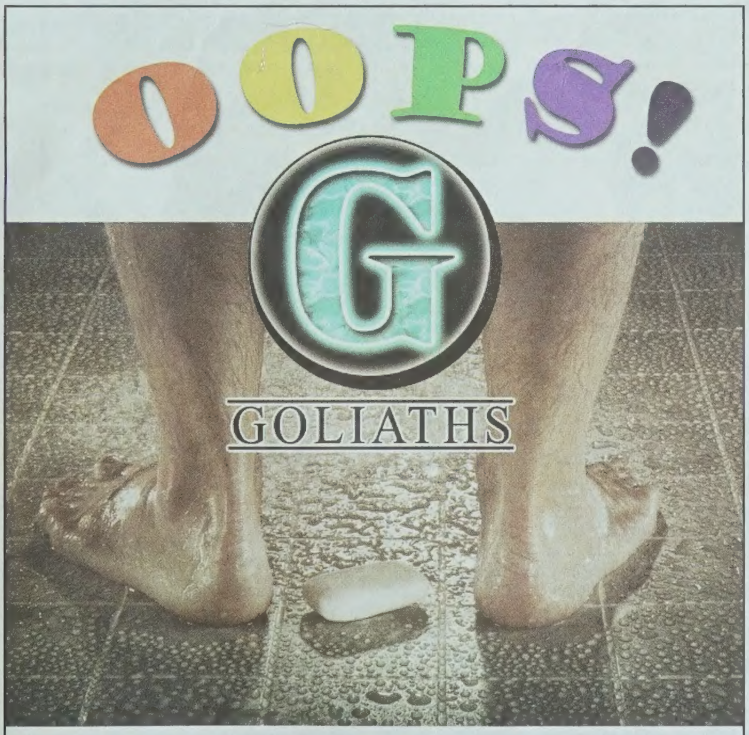
FREE TRIAL CALL NOW! CODE 6615

Toronto.....416.915.4545
Ottawa.....613.321.1000
Hamilton..... 905.296.6000
Calgary..... 403.355.2222
Edmonton.... 780.409.3333
Vancouver.....604.257.5555
Victoria..... 250.220.1000
Saskatoon.....306.374.8181
Winnipeg..... 204.480.3000
Find your local # 1.800.777.8000

Dial #MALE (#6253) for Bell, Fido & Rogers users 79¢/min.
1.900.451.3800 $1.99/min. • InteractiveMale.com • 18+

NEW! Hot, live Video Chat!

interactive male



OPEN 24 Hours Private Mens Club

Membership Required

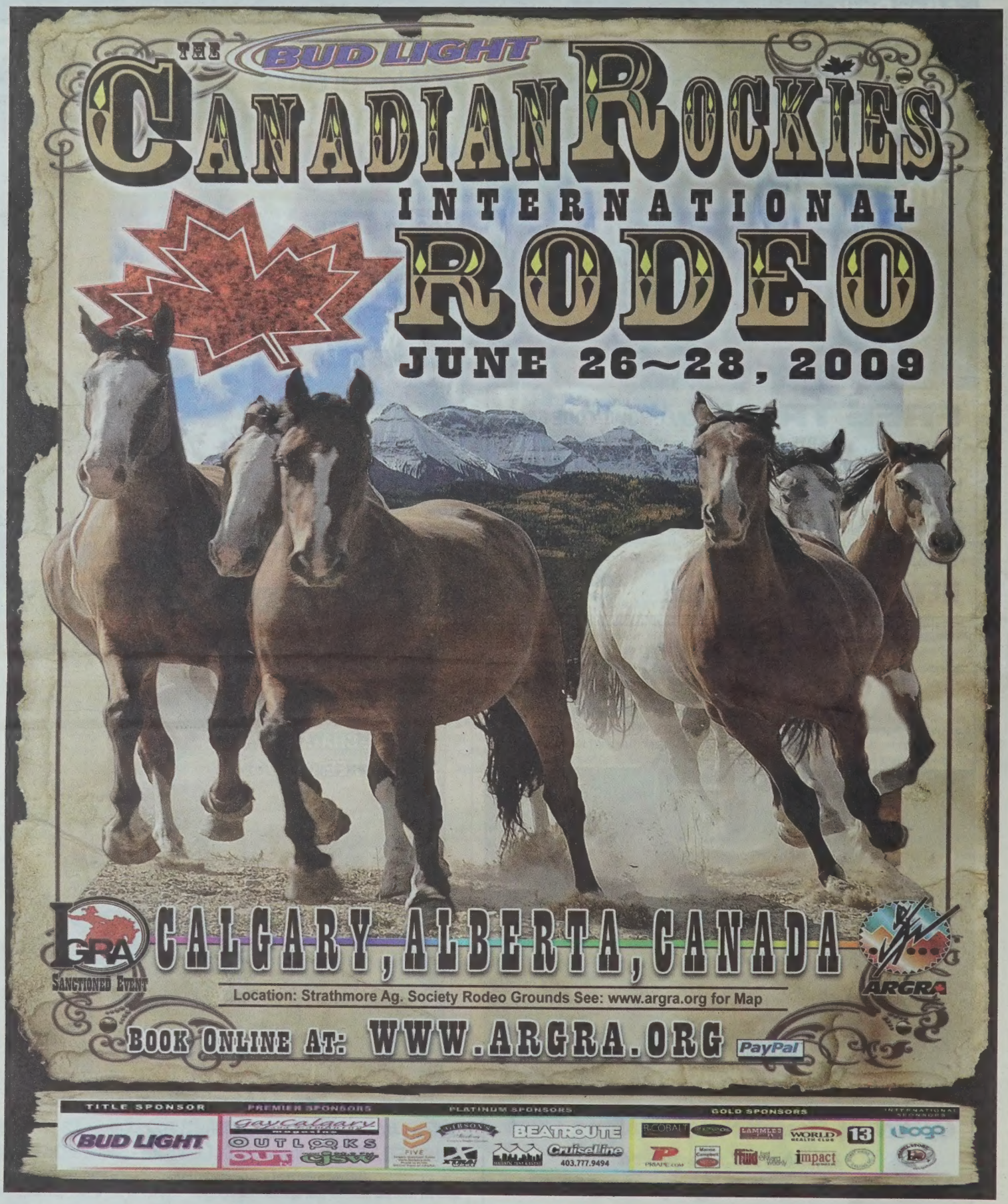
308b 17th Ave SW Calgary 403-229-0911

Your best pickup line.

Calgary 403.777.9494 • Edmonton 780.413.7122 • Toronto 416.966.ORAL
Ottawa 613.321.ORAL • Vancouver 604.639.0606 • Halifax 902.431.ORAL

Get time online now! • Try Cruiseline Text for free. Text "xtra" to 5FREE

50% off with our new member special. Call customer support for more info: 1.877.882.2005


THE BUD LIGHT
CANADIAN ROCKIES
INTERNATIONAL
RODEO
JUNE 26~28, 2009
IGRA
SANCTIONED EVENT
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
ARGRA
Location: Strathmore Ag. Society Rodeo Grounds See: www.argra.org for Map
BOOK ONLINE AT: WWW.ARGRA.ORG
PayPal
TITLE SPONSOR
PREMIER SPONSORS
PLATINUM SPONSORS
GOLD SPONSORS
INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS
BUD LIGHT
gayCalgary
OUTLOOKS
BEATROUTE
Cruiseline
403.777.9494
impact
WORLD
13